



PUBS LOSE OUT TO STORE GIANT

Report by Richard Guttridge

TWO landmark pubs will be knocked down after a decision blocking a supermarket giant from building stores on the sites was overturned on appeal.

Pub regulars who hoped their locals had been saved have been left devastated by the ruling which will see the Summer House in Woodsetton and the Maypole Inn, Halesowen, torn down to make way for Co-op stores.

Campaigns were launched to try to save the pubs, both currently still trading, and appeared to have been successful when Dudley Council threw out the applications.

But an independent planning inspector has decided the Co-op should be allowed to move onto the sites.

It will also see a store being built next to the Ashwood Inn in Wordsley.

Councillor Jeff Hill, who represents Hayley Green and Cradley South ward, said the decision was 'frustrating'.

New River Retail, which bought both pubs from Marston's three years ago, had been urged to 'respect the views of residents' by not appealing when councillors made their decision.

Councillor Hill said: "It's very disappointing. There have been strong feelings locally."

"There is a lot of frustration that a body so remote from the local area, in Bristol, is able to overturn this decision. The Maypole has been part of the community since the estate was built, it is a well-used venue."

The Maypole, on Bassage Road, was listed as an 'asset of community value' as locals strived to show how important the pub was to the area.

Market

Hundreds also signed a petition calling for the Summer House, on Sedgley Road, near Birmingham New Road, to be saved.

Councillor Hill admitted there was little that could be done to stop the pubs being demolished. He added: "We will have to wait and see. It is possible there will be changes in the market and the Co-op won't want to build on there."

As well as the demolition of the Summer House and the Maypole, a store will also be built on the car park of the Ashwood Inn in Wordsley, another application which had been refused by the borough council. The pub itself will remain open.

Planning inspector Michael Boniface said he had taken the strength of feeling locally into consideration but felt it 'did not outweigh the benefits' of the scheme.

He also said he did not believe opening a supermarket on either site would have an impact on road safety, despite residents' concerns about more cars using both sites.

FARM IS HIT BY SECOND DEVASTATING BLAZE



Fire crews at the scene of the second blaze at White House Farm, Halesowen. The first fire was just 24 hours earlier. Picture: Jemma Graham

A FARMER has spoken of his 'devastation' after a huge blaze broke out at a barn on a farm near Halesowen for the second time in two days.

Fifty cattle were evacuated as crews battled the barn blaze at White House Farm, just 24 hours after another serious fire that saw several calves die.

Police said the first fire at the farm in Lutley Lane was being treated as arson although firefighters are still investigating the cause. The second fire was not being treated as suspicious.

Six crews tackled the most recent fire, on Monday night, with roads around the scene blocked. Thirty firefighters battled to save the barn but the building and 300 tons of hay were destroyed. Crews led 50 cattle to safety to a nearby field and firefighters remained at the scene on Tuesday morning.

Sunday's suspected arson attack left six calves dead and 11 others needing veterinary care.

Farmer Ross Beasley, who has lived at the farm for his whole life, said the two fires were 'devastating'. His wife Helen was due to celebrate her 50th birthday on Monday but the celebrations were cancelled when the blaze broke out.

She was concerned about the suffering of the six calves burned alive on Sunday. "I want people to realise the devastation for the livestock and what those poor calves went through," she added.

A tractor was destroyed by the flames too. A police spokesman said two males, aged 51 and 16, had been arrested in connection with the fire on Sunday evening and released on police bail after the second fire was reported.

POLICE

Bail for teenagers after fatal stabbing

TWO more teenagers have been arrested in connection with the murder of Nether-ton father-of-two Simon Johnson, who was found stabbed to death at his Cradley Road home.

The pair, aged 15 and 18, were detained on Tuesday night on suspicion of murdering 41-year-old window fitter Mr Johnson. The younger of the two has already been released on bail, while the older was being questioned by police on Wednesday.

Two other teenagers, also 15 and 18, were arrested at the weekend and released on bail.

SPORT

£500k grant for new football pitch

A STATE-of-the-art football pitch will be installed at the Dell Stadium in Brockmoor following the awarding of a £500,000 grant.

The cash injection from the Football Foundation will pay for an all-weather 3G pitch with the aim of boosting sport in the borough.

Dudley Council's leisure boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We're committed to doing all we can to develop the leisure opportunities in the borough."

RETAIL

Last days for BHS at Merry Hill centre

THE BHS store in the Merry Hill Shopping Centre is due to close on Sunday, August 28, it has been confirmed.

The branch will become the latest in the Black Country to close as stores gradually shut down following the company's collapse. Stores in Wolverhampton and Walsall have already closed.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, boss of economic development at Dudley Council, said the loss of BHS was a blow for the centre and borough as a whole.

Company administrator Duff & Phelps failed to find a buyer for the business as a going concern.

INSIDE

DEER LITTLE ZOO ARRIVALS



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EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Nicola Cope
Tel: 01902 319573
E-mail: nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Marguerita Finnegan
Tel: 01902 319627
E-mail: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Liz Barratt
Tel: 01384 353244
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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No new action on road after tragedy



David Hinton - hit by car

NEW safety measures will not be taken on a road where a father-of-eight from Halesowen was killed, say highways bosses. There had been calls for action following the death of Dave Hinton last year but Dudley Council say there is no need for changes on Oakham Road.

Mr Hinton, 47, died after being struck by a car as he strapped one of his children into the back seat of the family Peugeot in June 2015.

Residents have called for action but council bosses say, following an investigation, changes are not needed.

Monitoring found only a 'very small minority' breaking the speed limit.

Highways boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "We met with the police who found no defect with the road surface or layout of Oakham Road and also took into account the coroner's report, which made no recommendations with regard to necessary improvements.

"The court found that the death was caused by careless driving after the driver fell asleep at the wheel and found this tragic accident was not speed related. No further personal injury acci-

idents have been recorded on this stretch of road during 2015/16. A survey carried out shortly after the accident indicated that the majority of traffic was travelling at or close to the 30mph speed limit.

"While our thoughts remain with Mr Hinton's family, there are no plans to implement further traffic calming measures on this stretch of road, which benefits from a local safety scheme."

Sajid Hussain, 36, was given a suspended jail sentence and a community order after pleading guilty to causing death by careless driving.

Teen caused damage and hurt care worker

A TEENAGER who assaulted a care worker and damaged £300 worth of property at a residential home has been handed a suspended sentence.

Haden Humphries, aged 19, from Pedmore Road, pushed Natasha Riley out of the lounge at Pedmore Walk Residential Home in Oldbury.

He then slammed a door on her, causing injury to her wrist.

Sandwell Magistrates Court heard Humphries, who has a stammer, ADHD and anger management issues, had previous convictions of assault and damaging property at the home.

Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, said: "Natasha Riley was in the lounge area doing her paperwork when Mr Humphries appeared in just his boxer shorts.

"She told him to get dressed but he told Miss Riley she was 'only part time staff' so could not tell him what to do.

"He then started throwing papers and folders around the room and picked up a desk fan and threw it to the floor and stamped on it.

Two landline phones and two mobile phones were also damaged.

Alarms

"He pushed another support worker and then Miss Riley tried to calm him down but was pushed out of the side door by Mr Humphries and the door was slammed shut on her.

"The metal door handle hit her wrist as the defendant said 'I am going to hurt you'. He then ran out of the lounge and set the fire alarms off."

Miss Riley needed a week off work because of the pain from her wrist injury.

Humphries pleaded guilty to assault on July 26 and criminal damage. He was given a 16 week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months and must pay £100 compensation to Miss Riley plus a £115 victim surcharge.

The court heard Humphries had anger management issues. Miss Kamalpreet Shergill, defending, said he had not wished to hurt Miss Riley. "He is a vulnerable adult with learning difficulties. This was not an intentional act but something that was done in the heat of the moment."

Zoo hears pitter-patter of tiny hooves



Born out of season, baby reindeer Sunflower has become hugely popular at Dudley Zoo

A BABY reindeer born at Dudley Zoo has been named Sunflower by keepers at the popular venue. They chose the moniker for the month-old fawn, who was born out of season on the hottest day of the year so far.

And just this week 12-year-old doe Blizzard gave birth to another calf - on Sunday she delighted keepers who had suspicions more babies were on the way.

Keeper Holly Clayton-Wright, said: "The baby is lovely and is

feeding well and mum is also being really attentive. Blizzard is sensibly keeping the newborn in the cooler shade and out of the direct sunshine. We haven't managed to sex the baby yet, but it's lovely that Sunflower will have a playmate."

Section leader, Jay Haywood, said of elder sibling Sunflower: "We wanted a name to mark her unusual birth in the height of summer and which also tied in with the flower names of some of the other females in the herd, so Sunflower

seemed the perfect compromise, especially as it blooms at this time of year."

Sunflower was born on July 19, as temperatures rose above 30 degrees on site, with Lily choosing to keep her newborn indoors for 24 hours due to the heat.

The Bambi-like Sunflower became a media star within hours of her birth but will soon have competition from her cute sibling.

Their father Ghost arrived at the zoo shortly before Christmas.

Motorist is badly hurt as car hits lamppost

A DRIVER was critically injured after his blue Subaru smashed into a lamppost and flipped onto its roof.

The man, aged in his 40s, was trapped in the wreckage of his car for 30 minutes following the crash in Stream Road, Kingswinford, at 5.30am, last Thursday.

The Subaru's driver was taken to the major trauma centre at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Sergeant Paul Hughes, from the Regional Collision Investigation Unit, said: "I urgently want to trace the driver of a silver saloon style car that was overtaken by a small red sports car and a blue Subaru just before the crash. I also want to appeal to the driver of the red sports car that was travelling with the Subaru to get in touch."

Fire crews from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill attended the scene and worked to release the man from the mangled wreckage.

Matthew Smith, spokesman for West Midlands Fire Service, said: "On arrival crews from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill found a car had hit street furniture and rolled off the side of the road and onto its roof. There was one casualty inside the vehicle, who was released by our crews."

An ambulance spokesman added that the Subaru driver was trapped for about 30 minutes while firefighters worked with ambulance staff to free him.

The crash happened between the junctions of Bromley Lane and Lesley Drive. Call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Pilot injured in microlight crash

A MICROLIGHT aircraft crashed in a field near Stourbridge on Monday evening, leaving its pilot needing hospital treatment.

The man, aged in his 40s, suffered a serious leg injury in the accident and was experiencing chest pain.

The light aircraft crash landed in a field off Holy Cross Lane between Clent and Belbroughton at around 7.45pm.

The incident has been referred to the Air Accidents Investigation Branch.

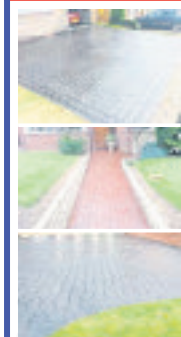
After receiving multiple 999 calls the Midlands Air Ambulance was sent to the scene.

The pilot received trauma care by ambulance staff, while police officers and crews from West Midlands Fire Service also attended.

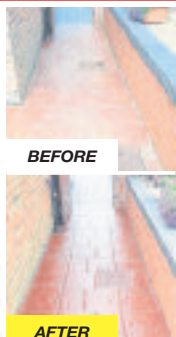
Real ale branch's annual meeting

STOURBRIDGE and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra) is holding its annual meeting next month. Members are asked to bring their membership cards along to the meeting in the Duke William, in Coventry Street, Stourbridge, on September 14, at 8pm.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Travelodge hotel gets green light

A HOTEL will be built close to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley after plans were approved.

The 78-bed Travelodge will be in Tipton Road and was approved by a unanimous vote of the borough council's planning committee – despite objections received from Friends of Dudley Archives, which is close to the planned budget hotel site.

Friends of Dudley Archives opposed the plan on the grounds it will remove parking from the site, which will soon be home to exhibitions moved from Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

Park is to host crafts and markets

SANDWELL Valley Country Park is hosting a family fun weekends plus a big Bank Holiday Monday market.

An agricultural and horticultural weekend is being held from 10am until 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

There will also be animal racing, falconry display and countryside crafts, among other displays and events.

On August 29 the park will host a Giant Bank Holiday Monday Market from 10am until 4pm. This will include a mixed market selling fine food, arts, crafts, vintage and shabby chic, plus continental goods.

Motorist badly hurt at bus stop

A VAN driver was seriously hurt after crashing into a bus stop. The man was taken to hospital following the smash in Dudley Road East, Tividale.

It took place at around 9.15am last Thursday. The driver's condition was said to be serious. The road was blocked for around two hours, with buses and other traffic having to be diverted.

Police spokeswoman Hannah Fitzgerald said they had been alerted. She said: "A man in his 40s was taken to hospital in a serious condition."

Charity concert in MP's memory

A CONCERT in aid of the Jo Cox Memorial Fund is being held on Bank Holiday Monday.

Musicians Adam Sayer, Jess Silk and Ian Marrey are among those performing at Katie Fitzgerald's in Enville Street, Stourbridge, on August 29 at 7.30pm.

There is a minimum donation of £3 to attend with the money going to causes close to the heart of the murdered Labour MP for Batley and Spen including Hope Not Hate.

Writing group launch

OLDBURY Library has launched a writing group. Budding authors can meet every Saturday at the Halesowen Street building, from 10am to 11.30am. Everyone is welcome to attend and admission to the writing group is free.

Rider died after his motorbike clipped kerb

A MOTORCYCLIST was killed after losing control of his bike after he clipped a kerb, an inquest heard.

Allan Wright, aged 63, from Rosalind Avenue, Dudley, died at the scene of the crash on the A456 Bewdley bypass, near Wharton Park Golf Club, on June 9. Mr Wright lost control of his motorcycle after his back wheel clipped a kerb, heard Worcestershire Coroner.

Malcolm Smith, a HGV driver who witnessed the fatal crash, said: "It was about two o'clock in the afternoon and there were two cars in front of me. Allan passed me and the two cars and then pulled in front of them and then came out again."

"There was a little bit of kerb that sticks out and his wheel clipped that. The back of the bike twitched and lost control and hit the roundabout. The bike went flying through the air and hit a signpost. There had been no problem with his driving, he wasn't speeding but driving safe. It was a beautiful sunny day, so the visibility was good too."

The medical cause of death given was head injuries.

Mr Wright was a maintenance man and described by his family as a loving husband, father and granddad.

A technical calculation estimated the speed of the bike to have been around 30mph. A post mortem detailed that no alcohol was in his system.

Senior Coroner for Worcestershire, Mr Geraint Williams, concluded a verdict of accidental death.

Landlord speaks on pub damage

A LANDLORD has spoken out about the damage to his pub which he claims was caused by unruly members of the travelling community.

Mandeep Bains, of the Full Moon pub and Indian restaurant on Hurst Green Road, said: "They come into the pub to use our toilets and they leave them filthy, break the seats and throw toilet rolls everywhere. They make a lot of noise and then we get the blame for it."

"It is not just us. Lots of shops and another pub down the road have had trouble."

Mr Bains, who has been landlord at the pub for six years, added: "I try to do my bit in the community but the council needs to do more to stop them coming back."

Teenager arrested after a collision

A TEENAGER has been arrested on suspicion of drink-driving and dangerous driving. The 19-year-old was detained after a crash on Oakham Avenue around 11pm on Thursday. The other driver suffered minor injuries.

Neighbours tell of their shock at death

NEIGHBOURS living in the quiet cul-de-sac where Dalian Atkinson was Tasered have spoken of their shock. West Mercia Police said officers were called to Meadow Close in Trench at 1.30am on Monday after concerns were expressed about the safety of an individual.

Atkinson died after he was hit by the Taser close to his father's home. Paula Quinn, aged 44, who lives in a first floor flat at the end of the close, said she watched the drama unfold.

She claimed the former footballer 'dropped down like a lead balloon'. "I was looking to see what all

the noise was and the gentleman was walking towards the police and still stumbling forward."

"It was right here in the street, there has never been any trouble in the street beforehand, the family are happy people, when they pass you in the street – a nice family."

Lascalles Rose, 73, said: "I spoke to his dad this morning, he phoned me to tell me the sad news. 'He was so upset, he just kept telling me 'he's gone' and 'my boy is dead' – he is just so heartbroken."

She said the former Villa star had recently spent two months in hospital.

At his best Dalian one of the very best

'AT his best, one of the very best.' That's one of the hundreds of tributes that have been paid by football legends following the death of former Villa striker Dalian Atkinson.

The forward, who played 85 times for the club between 1991 and 1995, died an hour-and-a-half after being hit by a stun gun at his father's home on Monday.

Villa paid tribute to Atkinson by holding a minute's applause in the tenth minute of Tuesday's game with Huddersfield.

The striker wore the No.10 shirt during most of his four season spell at Villa Park.

Several members of the club's fan squad will also hold up umbrellas during the applause. An umbrella featured during the celebration of Atkinson's most famous goal for Villa, at Wimbledon in 1992.

Atkinson won the first Match Of The Day goal of the season competition in the Premier League era, after he capped a mazy run against Wimbledon in 1992 with a remarkable chipped finish.

Goalkeeper Nigel Spink, who played alongside Atkinson for Villa in the 1992-93 Premier League runners-up team, said he was 'totally shocked' by his former team-mate's sudden death.

The European Cup winning keeper said: "What can you say really? It's absolutely devastating. Dalian was a tremendous player, he had fantastic ability – pace, power and the ability to score goals."

Former Villa manager Ron Atkinson, who signed the mercurial forward for both Sheffield Wednesday and Villa, said: "I still believe that if he hadn't got injured just before Christmas in the first year of the Premier League then we would've won it, as him and Dean Saunders were the best partnership in the league at that time."

Tony Daley, who played for Aston Villa at the same time as Atkinson, tweeted: "Devastating news...RIP Dalian" with an image of a broken heart.

Atkinson's strike partner Dean Saunders was in a state of disbelief when the news was broken to him. "I really cannot believe it, he was my attacking partner," he said. "He was a happy-go-lucky lad, a really nice bloke."

Mark Bosnich, who played in goal for Villa in the League Cup final, wrote on Twitter: "RIP Dalian Atkinson, at his best one of the very best. xmb"

Defender Paul McGrath, widely considered to be the greatest Villa player of the modern era, added: "Don't feel to gud at the moment, Dalian Atkinson was a huge part of the Villa family I played with lovely kid and friend R.I.P pal Xx."

Staffordshire's Stan Collymore tweeted that he was 'devastated'.

He wrote: "RIP Big man. Deeply distressed and upset at the news. Condolences to DA's family and friends. Much love. Devastated."



From the Villa archives, season 1992-93, Dalian Atkinson



Saddened – ex-Villa manager Ron Atkinson



Stan Collymore tweeted he was 'devastated'



Tony Daley tweeted it was heart-breaking

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A TWITTER account in Walsall says it will "name and shame" men caught urinating on its CCTV camera (Okay, not actually on the camera but in the area covered by the camera). The implication is that offenders, including two suspected bus drivers, have some choice in the matter. I can only assume that those setting the trap have not yet reached middle-age and experienced the eye-watering urgency that can go with blood-pressure tablets or prostate problems. If there were more public loos there would be less public peeing.

A DAILY Telegraph reader reports that the e-passport gate at Heathrow has instructions which begin with the order to remove your glasses. He can't tell us what the following instructions were.

JEWISH jokes, Irish jokes, casual sexism and a "Red Indian" dance committing the unpardonable sin of cultural appropriation. Does anyone at the Yesterday channel vet the repeats of 1970s The Two Ronnies before screening them? And do we all feel guilty about laughing?



THE University of Wolverhampton unveiled plans for a 10-storey development of 800 student flats. A survey by insurance firm Aviva revealed that more than a third of graduates regret going to university. Half reckon they would have landed their current job without a degree. It is blindingly obvious that Britain can never provide enough high-level jobs for the 745,000 graduates and post-graduates leaving university each year with an average of £40,000 debt apiece. Yet the academics and developers in Wolverhampton, and in dozens of other university towns and cities, clearly see no end to the higher-education boom. Teaching and accommodation blocks are going up everywhere, providing employment for bricklayers, plasterers, electricians and plumbers, and huge profits for building contractors. Isn't it curious that the people making real money out of the university boom, the ones who are debt-free and currently swanning around the Med on long holidays, are tradesmen who never went to university? Somewhere in here there is a PhD in irony.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Four children a week are excluded for racism

MORE than four children a week are excluded from school for racist abuse of their fellow pupils in the Black Country, according to new figures.

The data, compiled by New Schools Network, revealed that there were 160 cases across Wolverhampton, Dudley, Walsall and Sandwell schools which were serious enough to warrant a fixed or permanent exclusion in the 2014-15 academic year.

By Nick Humphreys

Across the West Midlands there were 600 cases and since 2008-09, the region has seen almost 4,000 exclusions for racist abuse.

The West Midlands has the highest proportion of exclusions because of racist abuse in England.

In 2014-15, there were 4,000 cases of racist abuse, amounting to 20 exclusions a day.

Most

Dudley had the most, with 60 children being excluded. Of all children excluded from school in the area, 2.84 per cent were removed due to racist abuse.

In Wolverhampton, 30 children were excluded, a percentage of 2.56. Walsall had 40 children excluded and Sandwell had 30 children excluded.

Councillor Claire Darke, Wolverhampton council cabinet member for education, said: "It's a very important issue, it needs challenging. I think it needs direct action." The analysis comes as

New Schools Network has successfully argued for a new category of 'social need' to be part of the free school application criteria. This means that free school proposals will now be considered for approval if there is a proven 'social need' for the school.

One of the benefits of this new category is that proposals can now be brought forward with the explicit intention of creating more integrated schools in areas where existing schools are divided on racial lines.

Free schools are already the most diverse type of school. Schools like University of Birmingham School have used their admissions criteria to actively promote bringing children together from different backgrounds.

New Schools Network, which helps groups wanting to set up free schools, has already met local organisations and existing schools interested in founding new schools.

Opera star to join Songsters



Opera and TV star Lesley Garrett to sing at Dudley Town Hall

POPULAR opera singer Lesley Garrett will be singing in Dudley as special guest of a local choir.

The soprano will be the guest at the Kingswinford-based Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir's autumn concert to be held at Dudley Town Hall on September 24.

The concert will be compered by TV presenter Joanne Malin. Tickets costing £25 are available in advance on 01746 763850.

The 61-year-old Yorkshire-born singer has released more than 15 albums since her 1991 recordings debut and her 1995 album Soprano in Red received the Gramophone Award for Best-selling Classical Artist of the Year.

Garrett was a featured artist on the platinum selling Perfect Day single released in aid of Children in Need.

She was a contestant in the first series of Strictly Come Dancing, a regular on Countdown and Loose Women, and took part in Who Do You Think You Are? as well as many musical shows.

She was awarded a CBE in 2002 for services to music.

Fury over roadworks gridlock across city

ROAD closures from Aston Expressway roadworks are causing 'traffic chaos' in the area, a councillor says.

Councillor Jon Hunt has penned an open letter to the regional manager of Highways England calling it a 'matter of urgency', as drivers face long delays.

It comes following the weekend closure of the A38 Aston Expressway and Junction 6 of the M6 for major roadworks.

Motorists continue to face misery as part of the ongoing works, which are due to last until December.

Councillor Hunt, who represents the North Birmingham area, said: "They just need to get on with it as it will only get worse because of the football and Bank Holidays coming up. I've had complaints from visitors as well as residents. It's just appalling."

In his letter, Councillor Hunt states his concerns about the closures saying they are 'simply not working' and 'causing gridlock throughout the city'.

He said Birmingham was on 'lockdown' with 'significant effects' on traffic access to the city. He also raised concerns about the permanent closure of the slip way at Aston and the Lichfield Road southbound access.

Highways England project manager Jess Kenny said: "Highways England has completed the weekend repair work ahead of schedule."

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Keith Bojczuk from Oldbury, with special pottery bees



Andrew Purvin from Leamington Spa, acting on the Ant Stage



Manjeet Gill and Matthew Carter with one of the photographs on display in the Town Hall



Shania Wearing, aged 10, from West Bromwich in the pottery flower garden



Alby & Doris - Grant Stimpson and Amy Howard from Whistable, perform

A real buzz for the arts

POTTERY bees, royals on stilts, a garden of ceramic flowers, digital graffiti and dancing around telephone boxes – there was an orgy of fun to be had at Sandwell Arts Festival.

West Bromwich was the place to be for this year's event after programming was handed from the borough council to Creative Black Country, part of an Arts Council team aimed at encouraging more people to experience the arts.

Instead of bringing in entertainment from elsewhere, this year's event focused on seeking out hometown talent – and that's exactly what they found.

Among the big draws was an indoor garden of 1,200 ceramic flowers and mini beasts created mostly by youngsters with learning or physical disabilities. Around 500 joined in workshops, launched in January and held across the Black Country.

Workshop leader Ruth Conover said: "It's been lovely to watch the youngsters looking for their flower and then suddenly recognising it."

Cradley Heath Creatives ran camera obscura workshops from their Ossbox, an original horse box transformed into a pinhole camera. A group of five to 12 year-olds from the Lyng Estate Media Club roamed the crowds giving commentaries, John Motson style, after developing their skills.

In the High Street, Corey Baker tickled the crowds with his antics in and around – and on top of – a phone box. A specially commissioned exhibit of giant pottery bees that, with the aid of new technology, buzzed when they were stroked was another big draw.



Stiltwalkers Verity Clayton and the Maharaja, Denton Brown raise some smiles

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Tragic end for such a magic goalscorer

WHEN Dalian Atkinson ripped up the Wimbledon defence in 1992, Villa fans had never seen anything like it. Starting deep in his own half, the moment he nonchalantly ran past the opposing players like they did not exist to chip the goalkeeper from outside the penalty area, he had the goal-of-the-season competition sewn up. And it was only October.

So it comes as little surprise that a generation of football fans have put aside club rivalries to mourn the death of the former Aston Villa striker, at the tragically young age of just 48.

Atkinson was a flawed genius, who delighted and frustrated fans in equal measure. He was unquestionably one of the most talented players of his generation, but struggled with injuries and never really reached the potential he obviously possessed.

But on his day, such as that miserable wet afternoon at Selhurst Park 24 years ago, he brought huge pleasure to thousands of people. That goal will surely have been watched over and over again during the past few days.

We do not yet know circumstances surrounding Atkinson's death at the end of a police Taser gun. His nephew said he had a heart condition, and it may well be that he had other problems, but it is unquestionably a heartbreaking end to a life for someone with so much to live for.

As the new football season gets going in earnest, it is a timely reminder that there are more important things in life than football results. And that all the fame, wealth and adulation in the world can provide no protection against personal tragedy.

□□□

SPECULATION that grammar schools could be in line for a comeback has been met with howls of derision from the usual suspects.

The National Union of Teachers – which for some reason is taking a six-week break from its usual threats of industrial action – is predictably against the plans, saying selective schools are 'socially divisive', and do nothing to improve the chances of youngsters from 'ordinary' backgrounds.

Well over the past half century, since the introduction of the first comprehensives, we have had nine prime ministers. Two, Tony Blair and David Cameron, went to elite private schools. Of the other seven, who all came from 'ordinary' backgrounds, six went to grammar schools or similar.

Comprehensive-educated William Hague, Iain Duncan Smith and Ed Miliband had a go at taking on posh boys Blair and Cameron, but they didn't do terribly well at it, did they? The NUT says that for every grammar school there has to be a secondary modern. The NUT vision would see every child go to a secondary modern rebranded as a comprehensive.



Suzanne Evans should have been allowed to stand, says Mr Cash



Nigel Farage – 'one of the great popular radicals'



Steven Woolfe not standing 'like leaving out your star striker'

UKIP's battle is won, says Cash as he quits

William Cash has quit UKIP over fears that the party is lurching to the right.

Report by MARK ANDREWS

AS political careers go, it has been a short one by any standards. Two years after becoming one of UKIP's most high-profile new recruits, William Cash has quit the party, voicing fears that it is about to lurch towards the far right.

When Mr Cash, of Upton Cressett, near Bridgnorth, joined UKIP in 2014, it caused a stir mainly because of who is father was.

As the son of the veteran eurosceptic Tory MP Sir Bill Cash, who was a constant thorn in the side of John Major's government during the 1990s, his appearance on the Ukip front-bench inevitably attracted a lot of attention.

He was immediately appointed the party's spokesman for culture and heritage, and was selected to fight the key Tory marginal seat of North Warwickshire at last year's General Election.

At the time, Sir Bill – who only discovered the news when contacted by a reporter – was quick to distance himself from his son's political viewpoint although he pair agreed to disagree.

Betrayed

"I totally disagree with him," Sir Bill told a reporter. "I absolutely totally reject the idea. I have no idea why. I know he has got a thing about the heritage, whatever that is supposed to mean."

Up until then, William Cash junior freely acknowledges he never had any real interest in politics.

"I joined UKIP, because I felt the Conservatives had betrayed Britain when it came to the countryside and heritage," he said. Mr Cash says despite his misgivings about the future direction of the party, he is still proud of what



William Cash, pictured at Upton Cressett Hall in Shropshire at the time he joined UKIP

UKIP has achieved.

But he says the party has now achieved what it set out for, with Britain's withdrawal from the European Union, and has no appetite for continuing as a member of what he fears will become a populist right-wing movement tapping into the fears of voters in the north.

He is also unhappy about the party's decision to ban Shrewsbury's Suzanne Evans and euro MP Steven Woolfe from standing in the party's leadership election.

"It is like putting out a football team without allowing your two star strikers on the field," said Mr Cash.

"I can't think why you would not want to have the widest talent pool available."

"I was very frustrated that Suzanne Evans is still under 'suspension' from the party and is not able to stand as leader when she is the best candidate Ukip have. Ukip's leadership

race has not been edifying and Suzanne most certainly should have been standing for the leadership."

The decision to stop Mr Woolfe from standing sparked the resignation of three members of the party's national executive committee.

Mr Cash said: "I don't think UKIP has clothed itself in glory with the leadership election. I think to outsiders it looks like a typical UKIP shambles."

He criticised the decision to suspend Miss Evans over allegations she had criticised a fellow candidate. Miss Evans, the party's former deputy chairman, claimed her suspension was because of her liberal views on gay rights.

Mr Cash, who contested the North Warwickshire seat for UKIP at last year's General Election, said: "I fear that it may be heading in an Enoch Powellian 'far right' direction."

"The fact that Suzanne Evans is not even

able to stand as leader because of her suspension, due to her progressive views on gay rights, tells you everything you need to know about the current state of UKIP."

"If UKIP veers towards the anti-immigrant, anti-gay rights, that was not what I signed up for."

The contest will now be between West Midland Euro MP Bill Etheridge, who is also a Dudley councillor, Jonathan Arnott, Diane James, Lisa Duffy, Phillip Broughton and Elizabeth Jones.

But while Mr Cash has concerns about the future of the party, he is full of praise for the party's outgoing leader Nigel Farage, saying his achievements will be remembered long after David Cameron and George Osborne have been forgotten.

"Nigel Farage will go down in history as one of the great popular radicals of modern politics and will be remembered by history, along with my father Sir Bill Cash and other loyal eurosceptics such as former cabinet minister Owen Paterson, for being on the right side of history."

But while he is also full of praise for Tory eurosceptics, Mr Cash says he has no plans to follow them into the Conservative Party.

"I was delighted that UKIP managed to play such an important role in securing such an historic victory against the political establishment," he said.

"I was proud to have won enough Labour votes in North Warwickshire – over 8,000 – to ensure that the Tories won the seat when it was the number one target gain seat for Labour."

"Tory wins in such critical West Midlands marginals helped secure the Tory majority at the election of 2015 which ensured we had the referendum vote."

He says until the picture becomes clear of how the political landscape will pan out in the wake of the Brexit vote, he will not be joining any other political party.

"I am open-minded about but I won't be joining any political party at the moment," he said. "I will be continuing to fight for the causes I believe in, namely fighting to save our democracy from the EU and the aesthetic soul of heritage and countryside of Shropshire and Britain with my pen from now on."

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Geese are the problem at parkland

I have read with some disbelief that the dog ban at Himley will continue.

The area in question has at no time since its enforcement been used by a single picnicker to my knowledge and I use the park almost every day. However, the area we dog owners are allowed to use has been taken over by a flock of geese whose faeces are everywhere, preventing children from playing there and people from walking there without treading in it.

The whole area is covered in droppings and (as geese do) it is spreading over the

whole park. No attempt has been made to clear it.

I challenge Khurshid Ahmed to walk round the park and then review the dog ban. The area I speak of is not fit for purpose and totally unhygienic for children to use

We regular dog owners have on many occasions had to pick up litter, such as beer cans, used nappies, etc, that have been left after functions at the park and still we are treated in this shabby manner.

D WHITE
Dudley

Show pride and respect

I WISH Dudley Town Hall was in front of the borough cemetery at Queen's Cross, because perhaps then the frontage of the cemetery from the gutter up would not be the weed ridden eyesore that it is.

Duncan Edwards, who still has visitors paying homage at his grave, is buried there along with many other loved ones. There is, of course, a lovely statue of Duncan in the marketplace and Ian Austin MP wants a blue plaque honouring Duncan placed in Priory Park.

Well, how about the council showing some pride and respect for his and other people's final resting place.

With cuts to funding, Dudley doesn't appear to have any money for the 'living or the dead'. However, not long ago it found the money to pay an employee £800 a day.

M GILL
Dudley

Rush to digital hits the elderly

THE older generation is becoming more marginalised, through no fault of their own, by hospitals, doctors surgeries, local government departments, utility services, the police and the emergency services, to name but a few.

Getting in touch with them can be a nightmare and the problem is compounded further if you are not IT literate or do not have a mobile phone, tablet, laptop, or PC.

W Lockley has a similar problem with his local Barclays branch as they are trying to coerce him into conducting future banking business online. As one of the older generation he says this is something he can do without and I would agree with him.

Apparently, he previously made payment on his Barclaycard over the counter at his local Barclays branch. Now he has seen that remittances can only be made online or direct debit.

Is this a case of discrimination do you think?

JB WALDRON
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudleychrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Big Sam sparks a happy Town memory

CONGRATULATIONS to Dudley-born 'Big Sam' Allday on being appointed as the new England manager.

Sam as we know is a home grown football manager who also played for Dudley Town FC.

All the recent talk about Dudley brings back happy memories of my own association with Dudley Town FC as a junior supporter often selling programmes at the old ground in Birmingham Road, with my pal Geoff Harris.

One special memory is of a match which involved a much earlier England connection. The match was a friendly between a Notts County XI and Dudley Town. The teams included

two of Wolves great players, Jesse Pye and Peter Broadbent. Also playing that night were England internationals Frank Broome and Leon Leuty together with Ron Wylie who went on to achieve Championship and League Cup honours with Aston Villa.

My favourite Dudley players at that time were Eddie Morgan, goalkeeper Bill Harris and the centre-forward Hourian.

To my shame I cannot remember what the match was in aid of, nor the final score.

Well, it was 64 years ago and I was only 13. Perhaps one of your readers can provide more information.

HR JONES
Kingswinford

Sad to hear about home

I was very sad to read your report on The Red House, Kingswinford. We had a relative in the care home for three years and the care and attention was fantastic. On one visit we were greeted at the door by a gent from CQC, who asked to speak to us, we gave him our honest opinion, told him it was 'caring care', he put that remark online and the home had a very good report.

Mrs O'Donnell would no doubt have felt the strain the last few months, but let's not forget that the care in that home was wonderful.

C FOX
Wordsley

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Lorry driver fined more than £5k for not taking breaks

A LORRY driver has been fined more than £5,000 after breaching regulations by driving without breaks were proved in his absence.

Acorns need help sorting donations

A CHILDREN'S charity is on the hunt for volunteers at its Halesowen donation centre to help support its network of over 50 shops.

Acorns Children's Hospice, which provides specialist palliative care and support to children and their families across the Midlands, recently opened the centre on Mucklow Hill Trading Estate.

The charity now needs volunteers to help sort through more than 2,000 bags that will pass through the centre's doors every week.

Kevin Ives, head of retail at Acorns, said: "This is an excellent opportunity for enthusiastic individuals who want to lend a hand and help us get the right product to the right shop at the right time."

Acorns shops raises around £1.5 million per year towards the running costs of the hospices, which stands at nearly £10m per year.

Contact andrew.hopcroft@acorns.org.uk or call 0121 585 8852.

Paul Kevin Garner, 64, had been trading as Narfright UK in Cop-pice Lane, Quarry Bank, and was driving an HGV when he was sub-ject to a roadside check on Bean Road in Dudley on April 19. Checks of his digital tachograph card, which record driver's hours, revealed that on multiple occasions he had driven for more than four and a half hours without a minimum break of 45 minutes, contrary to the Transport Act 1986.

When Garner didn't turn up to his trial at Sandwell Magistrates Court last week, despite having sent a not guilty plea by post, seven charges of this Transport Act offence were proved in his absence and he was fined a total of £5,390.

Prosecutor Miss Olivia Maginn provided a summary of the case against Garner, including details of the check that had revealed his breach.

Regulations

On April 19 Garner was pulled over in a goods vehicle with a maximum weight of 7,500kg.

He was asked to produce his digital tachograph driver card. Regulations state that during or after four and a half hours of driving, the driver must observe a break of no less than 45 minutes.

Garner's card revealed that instead on seven different days he had driven over four and a half hours, and in some cases for over six hours, with his longest qualifying break being just 23 minutes.

Garner was ordered to pay £711 costs and a £77 victim surcharge.

Fleur raises £2,500 with 100k run



Talbot's Emma Treacy presents a cheque to colleague and reservist Fleur Meacham

A LEGAL specialist has completed a gruelling endurance test to raise more than £2,500 for Blind Veterans UK.

Dudley's Fleur Meacham, a team leader in West Midlands law firm Talbot's new build property team, took on a demanding 100km run from London to Brighton, overcoming steep hills, muddy bogs, obstacles and hedge rows in the process.

The Royal Engineers reservist surpassed her own expectations by finishing in just over 19 hours and this follows the Three Peaks Challenge she took on in 2015.

Impressed by her dedication and willpower, bosses at Talbots agreed to donate £2,000 towards her fund-raising efforts and this money will now be used to support blind veterans buying talking tin lids to help identify food, 'talking' watches and jumbo key-boards to help them use computers.

"It was a ridiculously tough challenge but when the rain is lashing down, the blisters are starting and the aches throbbing you just remember what you're doing it for and nothing else seems to matter," explained Fleur, who joined Talbots last year as a paralegal.

"With my background as a reservist it was an event I wanted to be involved in and the money raised goes to helping some of our blind veterans regain some of their independence.

"Training was a handful of half-marathons, running sessions and long walks. A lot of it is in the mind, get that right and you'll be fine," she said.

Homes vow from mayor candidate

A FORMER Birmingham Labour MP, who wants to be the first West Midlands metro mayor, launched his campaign in Dudley vowing to build thousands of homes.

Labour MEP Siôn Simon was joined by party deputy leader and West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson to kick-start his bid at a housing development at the Guest Hospital site.

If elected in May, Mr Simon would take responsibility for transport, housing, mental health services, and economic development for an area covering the Black Country, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull.

Mr Simon, a West Bromwich Albion fan and former Erdington Labour MP, said: "It was great to see this development in Dudley. This is an historic site and many people in Dudley will remember the old Guest Hospital."

"Dudley Council is setting a great example and if I am elected as West Midlands mayor in May I will double the affordable new social housing being built – that's 3,000 new affordable homes to rent built every year in the West Midlands.

"What I'm saying on housing is simple: More council houses. More and better quality homes across the board. And affordable means affordable."

Elections will take place on May 4. The other parties are yet to announce their candidates.

Rescued real ale fair is given phoenix logo

THE logo for the rescued 31st Dudley Winter Ales Fair is to be a phoenix rising from the ashes.

More volunteers will still be needed to help at the real ale festival, which was recently saved from cancellation.

The Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale is now busy preparing for the three-day event, being held in Dudley Town Hall from November 24 to 26.

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Pool algae alert sparks dogs warning



A view of Swan Pool, at Sandwell Country Park, where there is currently a problem with potentially harmful algae

Dog owners have been warned not to let their pets into the water at a popular pool after the theft of a generator sparked an algae outbreak.

Signs have gone up around the Swan Pool at Sandwell Valley Country Park as the blue green-algae is potentially harmful to dogs.

Sandwell Council's leisure boss Councillor Richard Marshall said the

bacteria had built up after a generator which keeps the water moving was stolen.

He said: "Someone has broken in and stolen a generator which moves the water around."

Temperatures

"With the water not moving and high temperatures it doesn't take long. Once the water stays still it starts to build up. We're looking at getting a solar-powered pump."

Councillor Marshall said the pool would be cleared as soon as possible and that notices had been put up

around the park to warn dog owners.

He said: "We want to let people know. We have got signs in the car park so as soon as they pull up they can see. If they want to walk their dogs they know what's happening. The last thing we want is someone walking up to the pool and their dog bounding into the water."

It comes after a similar algae outbreak forced the closure of Wolverhampton's Tettenhall Pool on the hottest day of the year in July.

The pool was sealed off while the water was treated with chemicals to kill off the bacteria.

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Zombie knife ban comes into force to stop horror weapons

A BAN on horrifying zombie knives comes into force this week with those guilty of buying, selling, or making the lethal blades facing up to four years in jail.

It marks a victory for the Express & Star, The Chronicle's sister newspaper, which first exposed how these fearsome weapons could be bought legally.

The knives have cutting blades of up to 25 inches and serrated edges. They also come with names such as 'head splitter' and 'decapitator'.

While advertised as ornaments and collectors' items, the weapons were being purchased legally by criminal gangs.

Home Office minister Sarah Newton said: "This Government will act wherever necessary to cut crime and keep our communities safe. Zombie killer knives glamorise violence and cause devastating damage – they have no place whatsoever in our society. We committed to banning the sale, manufacture and importation of these dangerous weapons. We are delivering on our commitment. Anyone caught making or selling zombie knives now faces up to four years in prison."

The law was changed last month and the punishment became enforceable from Monday.

It follows a year long campaign by the Express & Star and West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson to get the weapons banned.

West Midlands Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner Ashley Bertie said: "The Express & Star got the ball rolling on this issue and have played a key part in this change in the law."

Target is smashed by Green Shoots Plus

NEARLY 300 jobs have been created thanks to £4 million worth of grants handed out to businesses as part of a pioneering Express & Star scheme.

The Green Shoots Plus initiative has given the green light to £3,908,539 in grants to more than 50 companies in the Black Country, Staffordshire, Shropshire, and Herefordshire which has generated a huge £9.2m in private sector investment.

A total of 278 jobs have been created and 110 jobs protected, smashing the targets of the scheme set one year ago.

The funding is provided by the Government's Regional Growth Fund and distributed through the Express & Star (sister newspaper to The Chronicle), the University of Wolverhampton and a panel of business experts.

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson said: "I think the Express & Star and the University of Wolverhampton's Green Shoots Plus scheme is a wonderful example of the public sector and the private sector working hand in hand to make a difference."

Achieved

"It is amazing what has been achieved in such a small space of time and the results are incredible. It is a scheme that has given businesses the ability to invest, grow, win new contracts, and take on new staff."

The grants, which cover up to 30 per cent of an overall project cost.

Officers to wear the rainbow with pride

POLICE in the West Midlands are to use rainbow-coloured lanyards to show their support of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community.

The move is part of an initiative by the force to increase equality.

More than 500 officers and staff have signed up to a scheme, called Allies, in the past eight weeks.

Allies are those who do not identify as LGBT but believe that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people should experience full equality in the workplace.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "Allies are role models who create truly inclusive workplaces and send a strong message to the wider community. Some of the world's most successful organisations have introduced similar schemes."

"I have funded the purchase of lanyards in the colours of the rainbow – the worldwide symbol of LGBT pride."



Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner Ashley Birtie with a zombie knife, now subject to a ban

Spielberg filming on location in Brum

OSCAR-WINNING film director Steven Spielberg has been filming in Birmingham, where he has been shooting scenes for science fiction blockbuster Ready Player One.

The American movie legend's latest project, set in 2044, has a cast including Oscar winner Mark Rylance and Shaun of the Dead star Simon Pegg, who used to busk in Birmingham while studying at Stratford-upon-Avon.

Ben Mendelsohn and T J Miller have also been cast for the Warner Brothers movie, which is scheduled to be released in 2018.

The director, who won best director Oscars for Schindler's List and Saving Private Ryan, was seen in the Digbeth area of the city on Tuesday along with several members of the cast.

Filming was taking place outside the Ashton Engineering company, on Floodgate Street.

Businesses in the Jewellery Quarter have also been advised that filming will be taking place in Hockley.

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From left, overall 3rd: Mike Gibbins from Stoke, Jacob Blake from Cradley Heath and Chris Campbell from Tipton



Kneeling, 310kg record-holder Adam Kirby with competitors



Record lift: Adam Kirby of Cradley Heath



Bale-out: Gaz Davies from Brierley Hill, during a challenge



Lifting the crowd: Overall winner Jacob Blake puts his back into it during the weightlifting competition

Heavy stuff for contest

THERE was certainly a strong showing at Sandwell's annual Strongest Man competition, as record numbers saw record-breaking feats.

More than 400 turned out at Sandwell Valley to watch the brawn-iest in the borough, including Adam Kirby from Cradley Heath, who dead-lifted a competition record of 310kgs.

Not only did the men prove their mettle,

but an impressive deadlift from a guest female competitor.

Nav Kaur, has prompted organisers to start planning for the addition of Sandwell's first Strongest Woman competition next year.

Marketing and business manager Mark Wildman of event organisers Sandwell Leisure Trust (SLT), said: "It was a really successful year, and it was also great to have Nav Kaur making a guest appearance and lifting 150kg.

"We are now looking to have a competi-

tion to find the Strongest Woman at next year's event."

After going through the tough trials of lifting logs, pulling tractors, and heaving tyres, Jacob Blake from Cradley Heath was named overall winner of the 90kgs category, while Richard Higgins took home the under 90kgs trophy.

The two-day competition formed part of the Summer in the Valley Festival, which is seeing a variety of events being held at the country park in West Bromwich over a month, replacing the Sandwell Show.

Sandwell Councillor Richard Marshall, cabinet member for leisure services, said: "We know how popular these events are, with sights such as the tractor pull always great to see. Congratulations to the competitors, and come back again next year."

The organisers are also interested in hearing from companies interested in sponsoring the event.

Call reception at Hadley Stadium on 0300 012 0121 selecting option 1 for leisure centres followed by option 4 then option 3 for Hadley Stadium for more details.



Olivia Blake and Laura Blake cheering on their brother Jacob Blake during the Strongest Man contest

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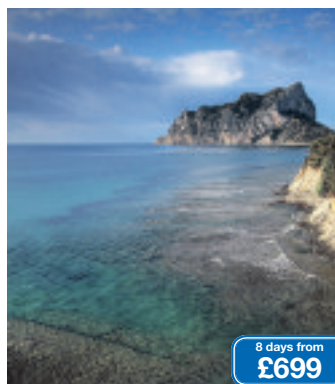
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Speed cameras likely to make a comeback soon

Skills hub is forging ahead



Trevor Ayre, of the Institute of Cast Metal Engineers, Professor Ian Oaks, Martin Dudley, of Thomas Dudley, and Ninder Johal, of Black Country LEP

WORK is about to begin on a new jobs-boosting manufacturing skills centre in the Black Country.

Bosses gathered for the start of demolition work at the Dudley Port site where a hub teaching foundry and pattern-making skills is due to be built. It will be an arm of a new £12 million Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills (ECMS) in Wolverhampton, with training hubs in West Bromwich and Dudley.

Students at Dudley Port will have access to industrial facilities at the Thomas Dudley foundry on the same site.

The aim of the training centres, made possible by £8m investment

from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, is to improve productivity in the high-value manufacturing sector.

They are also designed to bring together business partners and education providers. These include Dudley College, the Confederation of British Metalforming, Cast Metals Federation and the Institute of Cast Metals Engineers, who are investing the other £4m.

Led by the University of Wolverhampton, the project will provide specialist training in toolmaking, foundry skills, pattern-making, metalforming, forging, manufacturing management and leadership.

AVERAGE speed cameras could be installed on main roads in Dudley as highways bosses look to clamp down on speeding drivers.

Council chiefs said they were considering the move in a bid to slow down motorists.

Speed cameras in the Black Country were switched off in 2013 as they were costing too much to run. But motorists have been warned working cameras could soon make a return.

It comes as new average speed cameras went live across Birmingham this month in a joint project between Birmingham City Council and the police.

Dudley Council's highways boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "We are always reviewing what we do with our speed cameras, which include a mix of static cameras alongside other traffic calming measures and education work."

"We are currently looking at the possibility of introducing new average speed cameras on major routes where speeding is an issue, alongside other speed reduction measures, and look forward to seeing the results of the trial being undertaken by Solihull and Birmingham Councils and West Midlands Police."

Safety

Roads bosses have been keen to bring speeds down on major routes including Birmingham New Road and the Black Country Route.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin raised concerns about safety on Birmingham New Road earlier this month.

Councillor Ken Finch has campaigned for action to tackle speeding on the route and believes speed cameras are the only measure that will make drivers slow down. He said: "We have got to do something other-wise there is going to be a major accident."

Eight new digital cameras, which will detect vehicles via Automatic Number Plate Recognition, have been introduced in Birmingham.

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Suction solution

Struggling with unstable dentures and looking for a possible solution that does not involve surgery or fixatives? Denture Clinic Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353, who heads the team at his multi-disciplined practice in Dudley, takes a look at the increasingly popular Ultra Suction Dentures solution.

THERE are around 11 million denture wearers in the UK and it's not just the elderly who require them.

Surprisingly, nearly a million people aged 16 to 44 have false teeth.

There will be many different reasons for adult tooth loss – the most prevailing being dental disease – but wearers will all likely have at some stage another common problem: Stabilisation – particularly lower dentures that randomly move about and are hugely unpredictable.

If not addressed, displacement becomes progressively worse and as the denture rises from the gum, food particles are trapped beneath and sore spots quickly develop.

Secure

Despite bucketfuls of fixative, in the words of one patient, "the dentures appear to take on a life of their own" and sufferers can't eat what they want, when they want.

It's an all-too-familiar, daily story in any clinic.

Particularly for those without any teeth, gum profiles change through the passing of time and so does the denture fit as initial harmonious matches between gums and prosthetics are slowly compromised with bone and gum erosion.

Lifting, twisting and general movement of dentures is a sure indicator that a new



Denture Clinic Principal Steven Burchell with dental nurse Lydia Tranter

A tighter fit for dentures and no fixative?

prescription is required. False teeth are one of the most hard-working parts of the body, so it's vital the dentures have an exacting fit and are not prone to move.

What every denture wearer seeks are secure, comfortable teeth that don't embarrass while laughing, eating, talking and coughing – dentures that allow them to live

spontaneously and enhance looks.

The dentists' favoured choice for stabilisation correction is implants. But not everyone is a suitable candidate and neither are they a first preference of all patients.

Enter the non-invasive Ultra Suction Dentures solution that hit the UK market from New Zealand some four years ago.

Again not suitable for everyone, but for those with the right kind of gum contours, a great option to add another level of 'stickability'.

Secure, comfortable and natural-looking, Ultra Suction Solution dentures attract the biggest number of inquiries at the Denture Clinic.

So how do they work? A small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a 'sucking' vacuum between the denture and gums. The result is a better fit to the soft tissues and improved resistance to any dislodging forces created by eating and speaking. The device can be mounted in upper or lower dentures.

Everyone with a denture should feel relaxed wearing them – there is absolutely no need to put up with ill-fitting and poorly functioning prosthetics that erode self-esteem and confidence. What's more, all dentures should look stunning.

The term 'facelift dentures' is banded around and it's spurious. Dentures can, however, replace the natural supporting structures of faces and pinched lips and sunken cheeks are able to take on a new, younger looking profile.



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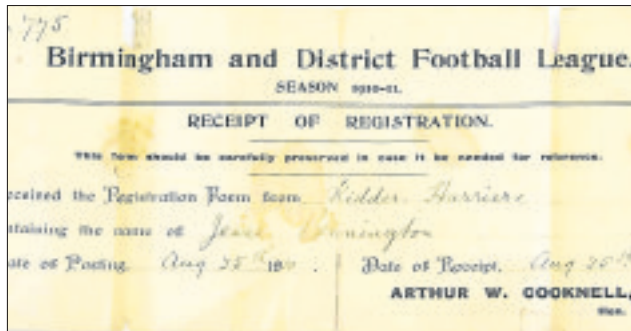


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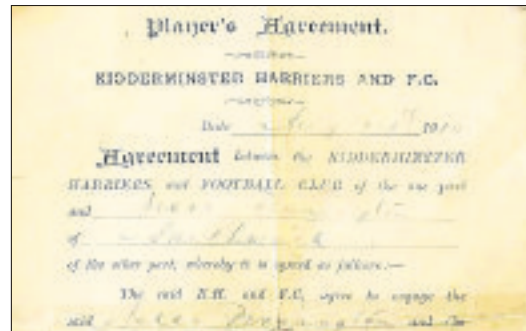




The Albion News and official programme dating back to 1922



The registration document signed by Pennington for Kidderminster Harriers



The terms are revealed in this player's agreement



Albion legend Jesse Pennington

Pay dispute tackled by Albion star Pennington

TODAY'S West Bromwich Albion footballers earn hundreds of thousands of pounds a week while playing for the Premiership club.

But 100 years ago it was a different story for top-flight players.

Take Baggies full-back Jesse Pennington, for instance.

He made 455 appearances for the club from 1903 to 1922, and also won 25 caps for England. Yet, during a dispute with the club in 1910, Pennington was given just £4 a week during a spell for Kidderminster Harriers.

Drawer

In today's terms that would equate to £429.62.

The pay was unveiled in a 'player's agreement' discovered in the drawer of a West Midlands home by Charles Hanson, manager of Hansons Auctioneers.

The payslip is going up for auction and has a guide price of between £80

MEMORY LANE

By Jamie Brassington

to £120. The document shows the defender registering for the Harriers after he left Albion following the dispute.

Pennington, nicknamed 'Peerless', only spent a short time at Harriers however, amassing just one game for the outfit before resolving his dispute with Albion and he returned to the Hawthorns.

When the payslip was signed, Pennington was an England international.

His weekly wage would be dwarfed by those of professional players today

Wayne Rooney of Manchester United earns £260,000 a week, closely followed by Sergio Aguero of Manchester City who earns £240,000 a week.

Pennington had a clean football playing career. He was never booked.

He was even offered £5 by a shopkeeper called Pascoe Bioletti to lose a game against Everton on November

29, 1913, as part of a gambling plot, but Pennington refused the offer and informed the police and club.

Bioletti was subsequently arrested and later sentenced to five months in prison for attempting to influence the result.

Alongside the payslip and other items belonging to Pennington that was discovered was an Albion News and Official Programme from August 26, 1922.

Favourite

It celebrates Jesse's retirement from the game – and reads: 'Jesse Pennington has always been a favourite wherever he has played and his sporting instincts have been a credit to himself, his country, his club and the game generally and it is to be hoped that his example will be followed by the younger generation of players.'

The items will go up under the hammer next Tuesday, August 23 in the Sporting World Cup Football auction at Hansons' showroom in Etwell, Derbyshire.



This programme will also be going under the hammer

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Every little doesn't help as zoo gets TV exposure

EVERY Little Helps unless you want to go to Dudley Zoo, despite Tesco's new advert being filmed at the family attraction.

Supermarket giant Tesco may have recently filmed its latest national advert at the zoo's monkey enclosure. But visitors and Tesco shoppers are not able to use their Clubcard points to enter the zoo.

Four Colombian black spider monkeys, called Valentine, Charlie, Chester and Evita, play starring role in the new 'Monkey Business' Tesco commercial, alongside actors Ruth Jones and Ben Miller.

The advert is one of three which showcases the different activities families can enjoy over the holidays as part of the supermarket's reward initiative. However, visitors to the zoo are unable to use their Tesco Clubcard points to pay for entry.

Zoo manager Matt Lewis said: "We've never been involved in the Tesco Clubcard scheme, but the advert isn't specific to DZG and generally highlights the different days out you can enjoy with the loyalty card scheme.

"We were approached by a television production company who had been subcontracted by Tesco to film the advert."

A Tesco spokesman said: "Our new adverts are designed to show the type of fun days out our customers can enjoy by using their Clubcard points.

"Locations used in filming were not designed to highlight a particular attraction as being part of the scheme.

Clubcard customers can use their points at the nearby Black Country Living Museum.



A screenshot shows actors Ruth Jones and Ben Miller with their screen children at Dudley Zoo

Party suspension for Labour councillor

A DUDLEY councillor has been suspended from the Labour Group. The party whip has been removed from Councillor Jackie Cowell, who represents the Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood ward, amid an investigation into her conduct.

West Midlands Labour spokesman Chris Lee said: "I can confirm that Dudley Labour Group has withdrawn the whip from Councillor Jackie Cowell." No details of why Councillor Cowell has been suspended have been revealed by the Labour Group.

Councillor Cowell, who chairs the council's planning committee, said she was unhappy with the decision, which she said involved an internal dispute. She said she intended to appeal against the ruling.

Dudley Council's deputy leader Judy Foster said she could not comment on the suspension as an appeal process had begun.

Councillor Cowell will still be able to attend council meetings but will not appear as a Labour member. She will also be stopped from attending planning committee meetings.

Trustee in walk to highlight grants axe

A COUNCIL decision to cut £308,000 in funding and grants from Age UK Dudley has been condemned by a trustee of the charity who has now decided to do a sponsored walk to raise money.

The withdrawal of funding by Dudley Council will come into effect in two stages – from October 1, 2016, and April 1, 2017.

The cuts mean that Age UK's Springboard activity centre at the Waterfront, Brierley Hill, is now at risk of closure and that health and wellbeing services for the elderly provided by 53 staff and more than 300 volunteers could be lost.

The decision has been criticised by trustee Mike Thomas who said: "This will result in a reduction or complete loss of services such as information and advice, the good neighbour scheme and day centres in Sedgley and Brierley Hill.

Isolation

"It would appear some councillors place more importance on maintaining weekly refuse collections as opposed to combatting loneliness and social isolation of the elderly in the borough."

Mr Thomas and his son Liam are holding a sponsored walk to raise awareness of the issues and everyone is welcome to join in.

The walk was being held on Monday, starting at 10am from the charity's head office at The Waterfront in Brierley Hill.

The route was due to go past Shopmobility at the

By Judith Hawkins

Merry Hill Centre, Stepping Out, at Brierley Hill, and the Day Centre, at Myles Court Brierley Hill, before going on to the Council House, Dudley, the Day Centre, Sedgley, and then returning to The Waterfront.

The planned walk was about 12 and a half miles long.

Councillor Qadar Zada, Dudley Council's cabinet member for adult social care, said: "The reality is that these cuts are not the cuts of the council, they are the cuts of central government. It is a Conservative Government which is cutting funding at unprecedented levels to all councils.

"I feel so passionately about this and about Age UK that I am going to write to the local MP Mike Wood, a Conservative, asking him to raise this in Government and I would encourage others to do the same."

You can donate to help Age UK Dudley's services by going to uk.virginmonneygiving.com/team/Stepingout11

Train bosses promise to improve access for all

A TRAIN operator has assured disabled passengers it is doing all it can to make its services accessible to all – after almost a quarter said they were concerned they would experience difficulties while travelling.

London Midland's research found that 24 per cent of disabled passengers believed their journey with them would not be easy. The company, which runs services across the Black Country, has now launched a campaign to show passengers the changes that have been made to make travel easier for disabled people.

Head of corporate affairs, Francis Thomas, said: "London Midland is working really hard to make train travel as simple and easy as possible for all our customers. Seventy-five per cent of our stations are now step free. If you are using a station where we haven't yet been able to make those modifications we will make arrangements to get you to a station where it is easier for you, at our expense."

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Tips to help tomatoes on their way to turning red



Tomatoes need warmth and sunshine to ripen

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT – Ripening tomatoes

IF your tomatoes are still green, they probably need more warmth and sunshine to help ripen them.

We can't always provide that here, but you can do a few things to help.

As the fruits set, remove the yellowing lower leaves up to the first truss. When these have ripened, the next set of leaves can be taken off. As a general rule, only remove leaves below the trusses, although if they are really congested, a little thinning may help to promote air circulation. A month before the end of their cropping season, cut off the growing tip of the plant or, in bush tomatoes, take out the tip of every main stem. By stopping the growth, energy will be transferred to remaining fruits to reach full size. And if you have green tomatoes at the end of the season, put them in a paper bag with a banana to help ripen them.

BEST OF THE BUNCH – Lily

LILIES are the fragrant stars of mid-summer, their bold flowers releasing a heady scent which fills the air.



Beautiful in patio containers where visitors can inhale their rich scent or in borders where the taller, bolder varieties can be admired from afar, the oriental hybrids often growing to more than 1.2m.

Dwarf patio lilies such as Lilium 'Mona Lisa' are ideal for pots, while trumpet lilies such as the white L. regale look fabulous in the middle of a border.

They like well-drained fertile soil in full sun. Plant lily bulbs in spring as soon as you get them, burying them at least three times their depth and 15-20cm apart.

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

1. Pinch out the growing tips of wallflowers for bushy plants
2. Order spring-flowering bulbs to plant in the autumn
3. Continue to deadhead regularly to encourage more flowers and water containers every day
4. Apply a high potash liquid feed to dahlias, water regularly and tie in new growth to stakes
5. Sow Brompton stocks now for flowering under glass
6. Stop outdoor tomatoes when they have set four trusses. Leave at least two leaves above the top truss to draw sap
7. Propagate floribunda and specie roses by semi-ripe cuttings taken from shoots which haven't carried flower
8. Moisten dry material you add to your compost bed to speed decay and add a proprietary accelerator to help the process
9. Harvest crops including courgettes and beans when they are young, to encourage the plants to produce more flowers and fruits
10. If you're going on holiday, group container plants together in a shady spot in the open, to make them easier for a neighbour or relative to water in your absence, and also reduce evaporation



Make the most of your garden space with some simple design tips

Transforming your space to make most of summer

WHETHER you have a large country garden, small town garden or compact terrace, you'll want to make the most of your outdoor space this summer.

So with that in mind, the design experts at Richard Burbidge have come up with a few handy design hints to help you transform your space into a practical and stylish spot for entertaining, dining, or simply relaxing.

Before you start to build your dream decking area, there are a few things to bear in mind:

1. Planning permission

The position of your decking can depend on planning permission limitations.

If you don't want to go through the hassle of securing planning permission for your decking, then make sure it's no closer than 20metres to a main road nor more than 3metres in height. If your decking is raised above this height, planning permission should be sought and outdoor balustrade should be utilised as an essential safety barrier.

2. Location location

Before designing your decking you should consider where the sun will be at different times of

the day. Also, will your new deck be protected from prevailing winds, by fences, walls or buildings? Finally, will the decking interfere with any household services; in particular will it affect access to drains or vents? If so, access to these may need to be built in to the design.

3. Size matters

As with any home extension, you should try to make the improvements look as though they were part of the original house. Therefore size should be taken into consideration when designing your decking. A small deck on a large house may look like an obvious addition, rather than an organic part of the house.

Similarly, oversized decking on smaller houses or in compact outdoor spaces can look equally out of place. It's also important to choose the right balustrade to make sure they are in keeping with the overall look and feel of your garden.

4. On the slopes

One of the best ways to make the most out of a garden with a slope, especially one that slopes away from the house, is to fit multi-level decking and outdoor balustrade. This adds interest to the garden design and breaks up larger areas.

ROSS UNDERWOOD



Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall

SUMMER seems finally to have arrived though if you are like me you will want to plan ahead.

Spare a thought for next spring and order bulbs for the autumn. Bulb catalogues have been landing on my doormat like early Christmas presents. They are full of exciting things.

One thing I always bear in mind is that bulbs look better en masse so I always buy as many as I can afford. It has been a lesson learned through experience that it is not worth ordering a few and expecting them to go a long way so I always estimate how many I will need then double or even triple it.

In the last few years I have started using narcissus in containers instead of tulips so that they can be planted in the grass or borders afterwards. I still use some tulips though as they are just that bit more luxurious.

August is a good month to keep those secateurs sharp as there is a good bit of summer pruning to do. Top fruit such as apples and pears will need the growth reducing this month to encourage fruiting spurs. Wisteria also builds up more flowering spurs if it is summer pruned and after it has reached the required size. The old rule of thumb was to cut a hands breadth from the old growth or six to eight leaves. This should then be cut down to two fingers or one or two leaves in the winter. Long shoots can be tied in to cover more space where needed.

Repeat flowering roses should be deadheaded (which, after all, is a form of pruning), in order to encourage new flowers and once flowering roses should be deadheaded just to give them a bit of a tidy. Whatever you do remember to give them a good feed afterwards. I prefer an organic fertiliser such as blood, fish and bone. It gives them all the energy they need to perform again.

Deadheading will also work wonders on that all important summer bedding, keeping it looking fresh. Begonias are apt to crumple in wet weather but will soon perk up if the flowers are removed. Pelargoniums also keep performing if spent flowers can be removed before they go brown and mushy.

Double dahlias look better and keep flowering if you remove the spent heads although it is not so important with the single flowered bedding types or the Bishop series which don't look as bad with a few faded blooms hanging around.

August can be a bit of a loose time in the gardening calendar. If your passions are for roses, foxgloves and all things which shout early summer then good for you but by now I am guessing that the party is more or less over.

Planning is key, it is good to start of some half hardy annuals from seed in the spring and growing them on to fill gaps. So while you are perusing the bulb catalogues it



It's time start ordering your bulbs for next year – make sure you buy plenty to ensure a good show



Repeat flowering roses need deadheading to keep them going



Dahlias are the stars of the garden during August

is worth flicking through a few seed catalogues as well.

If you have the space to keep things frost free over winter then dahlias are excellent and cannas are statuesque. They will need to be stored in a frost free space over winter and brought out in the spring when they start into growth. I grow foliage cannas and

put them in the border where they reach six or eight feet in a sunny spot.

If you don't have the time or the room for either of the above there are perennial alternatives. Ornamental grasses are beginning to flower now and can hold up a border when some of the perennials are looking tired and floppy around them. If you grow

miscanthus, especially the larger varieties then just be aware that they need a bit of shoulder room otherwise they are likely to dominate the things around them.

August can be a tricky month but with a few tricks up your sleeve and a sharp pair of secateurs it can also be a wonderful time in the garden.

Worry as travellers invade more Black Country sites

TRAVELLERS have been setting up more camps around Dudley, including at playing fields where the construction of a long-awaited community centre is due to start.

A group of travellers descended on the Donkey Pool Playing Fields off Priory Road, site of a forthcoming £700,000 community centre.

Then they moved on to Milking Bank, meaning that the legal process to move them on must start again.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We are aware of the travellers at Milking Bank. They moved onto the site late Thursday night. Our officers are visiting so that we can begin the legal process to remove them. The police are also monitoring the situation.

"I can assure people we are doing everything we can to move the trav-

ellers on as quickly as possible."

Castle and Priory ward Councilor Ken Finch said: "It is very disappointing. As an authority we are doing all in our power to get them off the land."

"The effect it will have on the centre is what is most worrying. Work is due to start in the next few weeks."

Residents have been waiting nearly a decade for a new community centre to be built, after the previous one was demolished.

Meanwhile, Oldbury residents have accused Sandwell Council bosses of not doing enough to stop travellers setting up camp three times on the same stretch of land in 12 months.

Travellers moved back on the playing fields next to Pitfields Close, Oldbury. The council says it is doing all it can to tackle the problem.



Travellers' caravans on Donkey Pool Playing Fields, Priory Road, one of several occupied sites

Traffic wardens are given video badges

TRAFFIC enforcement officers have been given body cameras to protect them from abuse. Sandwell Council says more than 40 were targeted over the past two years.

The authority has introduced 'video badges' after staff received a torrent of physical and verbal abuse.

Bosses hope cameras will help to reduce the number of incidents where wardens – officially known as civil enforcement officers – are attacked.

The idea of putting the cameras on officers came after 26 reports of physical abuse were received between April 2014 and March 2015 along with 22 reports from April 2015 to March 2016. Wardens can use the cameras when they feel threatened or just before a ticket is issued.

The council has around 25 Civil Enforcement Officers who have responsibility for the enforcement of on and off-street parking areas. They issue Penalty Charge Notices for breaches of parking regulations, which are issued under the civil justice system.

The cameras are aimed to act as a deterrent to acts of aggression, verbal and physical abuse and can capture both images and audio that could be used in evidence.

Star Wars actor Kenny Baker dies, aged 81

BIRMINGHAM-BORN actor Kenny Baker who played R2D2 in the Star Wars films has died at the age of 81.

The star, who was just 3ft 8in, found fame in 1977 playing the robot in the first Star Wars film and returned to the role in subsequent movies.

Baker also appeared in Flash Gordon, Time Bandits and Mona Lisa.

Actor Ewan McGregor, who appeared in three Star Wars films, tweeted: "So sorry to hear about this. It was lovely working with Kenny."

Baker became one of only two actors to have appeared in all seven Star Wars movies when he featured alongside C3PO actor Anthony Daniels in the recent blockbuster The Force Awakens.

20th Century Fox posted a photograph of C3PO standing next to Baker's Star Wars character, and wrote: "Rest in peace, Kenny Baker, the heart and soul of R2D2."

Determination

Mark Hamill, who played Luke Skywalker in the original Star Wars film trilogy, paid tribute on Twitter: "Goodbye #KennyBaker A lifelong loyal friend-I loved his optimism & determination He WAS the droid I was looking for!"

His agent Johnny Mans said the actor, who died on Saturday, had been ill for a couple of years. He had been cared for by his nephew Drew Myerscough at his home in Preston.

Mr Myerscough said: "I've lost my best friend.



Kenny Baker AKA R2D2

My Uncle Kenny might only have been 3ft 8in but to me he was always 6ft tall."

The actor was diagnosed with a chronic lung condition after collapsing on a flight home from Chicago nine years ago.

He had to breathe through a ventilator at night but led a relatively normal life until his condition worsened recently – attending a Star Wars convention just last month.

Growing up in Birmingham, doctors feared Baker would not live beyond puberty. The actor went on to become a Star Wars legend.


Shock as shotgun raiders target pub

MASKED raiders burst into a Great Barr pub and fired a shotgun in front of stunned customers.

Three armed men dashed inside The Hamstead pub, in Green Lane, during the terrifying raid in the usually quiet residential area.

Customers tried to help two men who were being robbed of their personal belongings in the attack, which was when a shot was fired. Police said the shotgun was fired into the ceiling. No-one was injured and the offenders made off in a silver car. The raid happened at just after 5.30pm Thursday.




Councillor Keith Allcock, who represents the ward, said: "It is quite a nice pub, we use it quite regularly. It has got quite a mature clientele. They do meals there and it is the not the sort of place you expect there to be an armed robbery." Detectives are viewing CCTV at the popular pub and following up a number of lines of inquiry.



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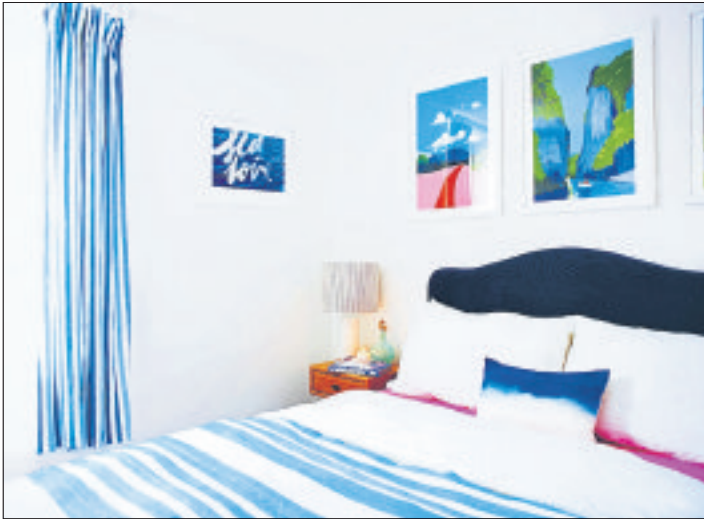
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Colourful cushions and Delft china at a Miami home featured in the book



Japanese art work providing shots of colour in Will Taylor's bedroom

Dreamy inspiration for beach-themed decor

By Gabrielle Fagan

ASK Will Taylor to describe his home decor and his answer is unhesitating: sea-inspired style with a touch of sunshine.

"I'm often at my happiest by the ocean with salty, windswept hair, bare-foot, with sand between my toes, and nothing to crowd my mind beyond the endless roll call of blue hues. I like to use these dreamy experiences and blue pool tones to inform the decor of my own interior space," explains the author of the gloriously illustrated *Dream Decor: Styling a Cool, Creative and Comfortable Home, Wherever You Live*.

The book opens the door to beautiful spaces throughout the world, as well as his own home.

Taylor's design ethos certainly explains why his apartment is more evocative of a Mediterranean sunspot than its actual urban London setting.

Brilliant white walls are the perfect backdrop for cheerful splashes of colour provided by collections of framed prints, and there's an array of vivid accessories, from lamps to vases.

"Blue and white is one of my absolute favourite colour combinations and nowhere is it more crisp and vital than in the jewel-bright setting between the Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea," he enthuses.

"Combining these shades in varying degrees of intensity is often a winner for decor, whatever shade of blue you choose for your keynote – whether its deep and cooing indigo, or refreshing sky blue.

"Also, when I'm working on a scheme, I always try to bring a touch of sunshine to each room with an injection of yellow. The scheme for my home office is based on the colours of a rowing boat I saw in a small fishing village, with its weathered yellow and blue panels, and just sitting in there transports me to that idyllic spot."

Colour is Taylor's passion and he describes himself as a "gentleman hooked on hue." His hugely successful interiors blog, *Bright.Bazaar*, which he founded seven years ago, is recognised as a must-visit site for those wanting to learn how to live in a more technicolour world.

"I believe, no matter where you live, you can create a cool, creative and comfortable space to call your own. To me, a well-decorated home is a collection of personal dividends gathered from one's experiences and adventures while travelling, or simply gleaned from day-to-day personal surroundings," says Taylor, whose book includes easy-to-follow guides to achieving a host of chic looks, from Hollywood chic and Italian rustic, to petite Parisienne and Scandi comfort.

"I've lost count of the number of times a new-to-me place, or seeing a routine experience in a new light, has resulted in an urge to bottle up one of those many sensory feelings to bring back home so I can interpret them into my decor. It's lovely to ex-



A wooden sail boat and the blue ocean inspired Will Taylor's home decor Image in *Dream Decor*, published by Jacqui Small



Will Taylor, founder of interiors blog *Bright.Bazaar*



The book is full of dreamy design ideas

periment and have fun with interiors and colour."

COLOUR CRUSH

If you're looking to make colour the central element of your scheme, there are two main routes to choose from, advises Taylor.

"Either create an all over colour statement, such as wallpaper or paint across all walls, or introduce a lone splash which stands out in a neutral space. Achieve that with vibrant bedspread draped over white bedding, or maybe an oversized piece of art."

"In my open-plan living and dining area, I've used yellow and dusty pink as accent

colours to inject hue into a monochromatic base palette – there's one black feature wall and the rest are white. The abstract art above a white linen sofa was a point of reference for my chosen accent shades."

MEDITERRANEAN MAGIC

"Translating the seductive colours and textures of the Mediterranean into your home is simple," says Taylor. "Sit vivid shades of azure blue against fresh whites and accent the palette with shots of hot pink, inspired by the abundance of bougainvillea."

"The key ingredients are white-washed

walls, weathered wood, terracotta, a burst of yellow, earthenware and painted shutters. A peppering of organic elements – a bowl of citrus fruits and vase of cut blooms, for example, are a perfect finishing touch."

For even more authenticity, he advises introducing textural interest by juxtaposing rough stone walls with cool, tiled floors and soft linen upholstery.

Dream Decor: Styling a Cool, Creative and Comfortable Home, Wherever You Live by Will Taylor is published by Jacqui Small, priced £25. Photography by Andrew Boyd. Available now.

Cooking up a storm with new trust cook book

The National Trust's eateries are renowned for giving a good feed.

Following the release of their first fully-encompassing seasonal cookbook, Claire Spreadbury rounds up her favourite recipes.

WHEN you think of the National Trust, it's likely you picture lush green lawns, meandering walks and family days out. But for me, the cafes serving the unbelievably delicious food are just as worthy a visit as the historic houses and grand gardens themselves.

I've been dished up the most delicious Chicken Buknade – a light yet hearty springtime stew – in Liverpool's Speke Hall; tucked into a gorgeously summery Smoked Trout & Watercress Tart in Mottisfont, Romsey, delighted in the Robartes Pie in Cornwall's Lanhidock and had to stop myself from indulging in a second slice of Sissinghurst's Honey, Walnut & Cobnut Tart when I was on a jaunt in Kent. And don't even get me started on the most amazing cakes they serve at every eatery...

Now that summer might have finally arrived, however, you can invite friends and family around and cook up a storm with the National Trust's very own cookbook.

You can't fail to impress – especially when armed with this recipe...

GOAT'S CHEESE AND SPINACH QUICHE

(Serves 8)

For the pastry:

225g plain flour

Pinch salt

1/2tsp dried mixed herbs

115g butter, diced

50g cheddar cheese, grated

1 egg, beaten

1-2tbsp milk

For the filling:

200g potatoes, diced

1tbsp vegetable oil

140g onions, thinly sliced

1 garlic clove, finely chopped

85g frozen spinach, defrosted

2tbsp fresh parsley, chopped

1tbsp fresh sage, chopped

1tbsp balsamic vinegar

1/2 Granny Smith or small

Bramley apple,

peeled, cored and diced

125g pack goat's cheese,

diced

125ml double cream

100ml milk

4 eggs

Salt and freshly ground

black pepper

Salad or mixed vegetables,

to serve

Method

Butter a 23cm loose-bot-

tommed, fluted tart tin. To

make the pastry case, add the

flour, salt, herbs and butter to a bowl and rub in until the mixture looks like fine crumbs. Stir in the cheese, then mix in the egg and enough milk to make a smooth, soft dough. Lightly knead the pastry, then roll out on a lightly-floured surface until a little larger than the tart tin. Lift the pastry over a rolling pin and press into the tin. Trim the top of the pastry a little above the top of the tin, to allow for shrinkage, prick the base with a fork then chill for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 190C/gas mark 5. Line the tart case with a circle of non-stick baking paper and baking beans, then bake for 10 minutes.

Remove the paper and beans and cook for five more minutes, until the base is crisp and dry. Set aside.

Meanwhile, make the filling. Add the potatoes to a saucepan of boiling water and cook for four to five minutes (until just tender) and drain. Heat the oil in a frying pan, add the onion and garlic and fry over a medium heat for five to 10 minutes, until softened and lightly-coloured.

Add the spinach to a sieve and press out the water with the back of a spoon. Stir into the onions then mix in the parsley, sage and balsamic vinegar.

Fry gently until the mix starts to dry, then take off the heat. Spoon half the spinach mix into the base of the tart case. Scatter the potatoes, apple and remaining spinach mix into the tart, then top with the goat's cheese. Whisk the cream, milk, eggs and a little salt and pepper together in a jug then pour into the tart.

Bake at 180C/gas mark 4 for 35-40 minutes, until the top is golden brown and the filling is set.

The National Trust Cookbook, is published by National Trust Books, priced £20. Available now.

fast the ticket

It's time!

Festival back with bang
See Page 21

Grease lightning

Page 21

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Novacrow



Tomorrow, 7pm
Slade Rooms, W'ton

Liverpool-based heavy rockers who recently released debut EP Black Syrup. It's a return to their home town for feisty frontwoman Kitty Staunton and guitarist Jonny. Four support bands. See www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Mr BEN



Tonight,
The Jam House, B'ham

This well-loved covers band span a variety of genres to bring a tight and explosive set to anyone who fancies a good-old-fashioned night out. Expect to hear a host of top tunes. Visit www.thejamhouse.com

The Pretty Things



Thursday, 7.30pm
Robin 2, Bilston

1960s psychedelic rockers who inspired David Bowie among others, featuring original members; singer Phil May and Rolling Stones co-founder guitarist Dick Taylor. Visit www.therobin.co.uk

Grease



Today and tomorrow, various
New Alex Theatre, B'ham

Grab your leather jackets, throw your mittens around your kittens and away you go! Get ready to hand-live, it's the The No1 greatest musical Grease. Visit www.birminghamtheatres.com/newalexandra.htm

POP

Akamba Presents – The Ultimate Michael Jackson Tribute
(Mitchell Joseph Thompson)

Tonight,
Akamba Garden Centre, Shirley,
Solihull, B90 1PH.
Call 0121 733 3111

Iconic 80s
Tomorrow, £8
The River Rooms,
Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177 or
07986 577 661

CLUBBING

Propaganda
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1
1DB
Call 0121 622 8250

ROCK & METAL

Mr BEN
Tonight,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Bon Giovi – The International Tribute to Bon Jovi (LS)
Tonight, £12 - £16
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ
Call 01902 401211

Definitely Mightbe
Tonight at 7.30pm, £10
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

Mad 4 Brit
Tonight, £6 - £7
The RoadHouse, Kings Norton,
Birmingham, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Nirvana UK
Tomorrow, £6 - £7
The RoadHouse, Kings Norton,
Birmingham, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Ovation presents NOVACROW
Tomorrow,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

Surf's Up
Tonight, £13.50 - £15
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate,
Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

FOLK

Fotheringay
Tonight, £20
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate,
Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Traditional Irish Music
Mon,
The Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham,
B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Folk & Roots Club
Thursday, Free
The RoadHouse,
Kings Norton,
Birmingham,
B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

FESTIVALS

V Festival
Today - Sunday,
Weston Park,
Weston-under-Lizard,
TF11 8LE.
Call 01952 852100

Selly Oak Fake Festival
Tomorrow at 12.30pm - 11.45pm,
£11 - £53
Selly Oak Park, Birmingham,
B29 6PG.
See www.fakefestivals.co.uk

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Llangollen Railway, The Station,
LL20 8SN.
Call 01978 860979

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
The Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

CLASSICAL

Organ Proms
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Oakhill,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 5JZ.
Call 07967 806 409

Stourport Choral Society
Wed,
Areley Kings Village Hall,
Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

COMEDY

Upfront Comedy's Summer Jam
Tomorrow,
MAC, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

King Kong Comedy Club
Thu at 8pm, Free
Gunmakers Arms Pub,
Birmingham, B4 6HG.
Call 0121 236 8486

One Show More
Tomorrow - Thu, Free - £16
Fenton Manor Sports Complex,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2RR.
Call 01782 233222

THEATRE

Stepping Out
Tomorrow - Sun, £5 - £10
Aston University,
Birmingham,
B4 7ET.
Call 0121 204 3000

As You Like It – Outdoor theatre
Sun,
Attingham Park, Shrewsbury,
SY4 4TW.
Call 01743 708123

Grease
Tonight, tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Theatre Tour
Tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Glenn Miller Story
Tue - Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Chicken Chase
Tue, £2
Ludlow Assembly Rooms,
SY8 1AZ.
Call 01584 878141

Dotty the Dragon
Thu,
Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster,
DY11 7XZ.
Call 01299 251890

MISC. EVENTS

Victorian Summer of Fun
Tomorrow - Thu,
The Ironbridge Gorge Museums,
Coalbrookdale,
TF8 7DQ.
Call 01952 433 424

Launching Innovative Future Technologies (LIFT)
Today,
iCentrum, Innovation Birmingham
Campus, B7 4BP.
Call 01212 503517

The Big Read: Beatfrecks
Tomorrow,
Soho House,
Birmingham,
B18 5LB.
Call 0121 554 9122

Newcomen Engine in steam
Tomorrow - Sun,
The Black Country Living
Museum,
DY1 4SQ.
Call 01215 579643

Meccano Event
Tomorrow - Sun,
The Ironbridge Gorge Museums,
Coalbrookdale,
TF8 7DQ. Call 01952 433 424

Family activities at Kitchen Garden Cafe
Mon - Tue,
The Kitchen Garden Cafe,
Birmingham, B14 7SA.
Call 0121 443 4725

Whyley Dance
Tue,
Areley Kings Village Hall,
Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

The Crunch roadshow & tortilla making
Tue,
Sarehole Mill, Birmingham,
B13 0BD. Call 0121 348 8160

Summer Skool – Learn to be a Mad Scientist
Tue,
Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster,
DY11 7XZ. Call 01299 251890

Historical Talk Series. Louise Deakin – Key Hill Cemetery and Warstone Lane Cemetery
Tue,
Gunmakers Arms pub,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 8486

Chance to Dance
Thu,
Areley Kings Village Hall,
Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Howard Robinson presents: Oliver Cromwell and The Battle of Worcester
Thu, £5
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate,
Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Holiday Wildlife Club – Predator V Prey (five to seven years)
Today, £12 to £14
Sandwell Valley Nature Reserve,
West Bromwich, B43 5AG.
Call 0121 357 7395

GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

Spotlight Tour
Today, Free
Ikona Gallery,
Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Art Explorer Friday
Today - Sun,
Ikona Gallery, Birmingham,
B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708

Fortnightly knitting and crochet group
Sun,
Longton Library,
Sutherland Institute,
Stoke-on-Trent,
ST3 4HY.
Call 01782 238424

Cathie's Sewing Bee
Mitchell Arts Centre,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 4HG.
Call 01782 409307

Stoked-on-Tech: Make your own pinhole camera
Today
Mitchell Arts Centre,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 4HG.
Call 01782 409307

Saturday Guided Tours
Tomorrow, £3
Birmingham Museum & Art
Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Make A Super Hero Mask
Tomorrow,
Creative Coffee Hub,
Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215727300

Identification Day with Henry Sandon MBE
Tomorrow, £3
Museum of Royal Worcester,
WR1 2ND.
See www.museumofroyalworcester.org

Sunday Guided Tours
Sun, £3
Birmingham Museum & Art
Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Textiles: Cushion Cover Designs
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MAC, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232
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Aug, 21st Aug and 7th Sept.

Paper Bracelet Making
Sun,
Creative Coffee Hub,
Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215727300

Summer Holiday Tile Decorating Workshops
Today, £5
The Ironbridge Gorge Museums,
Coalbrookdale, TF8 7DQ.
Call 01952 433 424,

Rainbows
Wed,
Areley Kings Village Hall,
Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Family Craft Activity: Crafty Castles
Wed, £1
Aston Hall, Birmingham, B6 6JD.
Call 0121 675 4722

The Good, The Bad and The Yucky
Wed, £1
Aston Hall, Birmingham, B6 6JD.
Call 0121 675 4722

WackyWednesday
Wed, £2
Erasmus Darwin House, Lichfield,
WS13 7AD.
Call 01543 306260

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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Galaxy of top pop stars take off to V

SOME of the biggest names in rock and pop will take the stage when Weston Park hosts this year's V Festival.

The grounds of the stately home near Wolverhampton will host performances from some of the biggest global names in music this weekend. Justin Bieber and Rihanna will be the headline acts for 90,000 music fans on Saturday and Sunday at Weston Park, with Sia and David Guetta playing a supporting role.

V will also feature big name artists on its MTV Stage, including perennial festival favourites Faithless and Kaiser Chiefs, as well as Tinie Tempah and Jake Bugg.

There will also be two further stages, the Dance Arena Stage featuring headliners DJ Ez and Craig David's TS5.

Comedy

The V Street Stage will feature headline sets from The Sugarhill Gang and fellow 1980s R&B stars Soul II Soul with support slots from Anne-Marie and Birmingham's Laura Mvula.

Comedy will play a big part at the event at the Glee Comedy Tent. Australian Adam Hills will lead the way and there will also be sets from Katherine Ryan, Sara Pascoe and Bill Bailey.

The BBC Radio One Summer of Dance Stage will feature Annie Mac and Gorgon City.

V Festival was Britain's first ever simultaneous twin-site, multi-day festival and visitors will be able to stay in style in a Podpad Village. New to V



Are you a Belieber.... Justin Bieber tops the bill at the V Festival this weekend

Festival 2016 is Pink Moon Camping, which offer pre-pitched tents for two, four, six or eight people, or a two-man rainbow tipi.

V Festival was launched in 1996 when Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker said he would like to play two outdoor venues in successive days. His

promoters came up with the idea of V, originally held in Warrington and Chelmsford. It subsequently relocated to Leeds before settling at Weston Park, in 1999.

Weston Park and Hylands Park, Chelmsford, have continued to host the event for the past 16 years.

Grease is the word at Alex

MORE than 100 local actors will feature in a special production of Grease The Musical at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre, which started last night (Wednesday) and continues until Friday night (August 20).

The annual Stage Experience production for 2016 features all of the iconic songs from the adored 1978 film starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton John, including Grease Lightning, We Go Together and You're The One That I Want.

Venue spokesman Matthew Breen said: "Dazzling choreography, stunning costumes and set pieces will light up the New Alex stage."

The theatre's Stage Experience production will see a cast of more than 100 local nine to 24-year-olds mount a full-scale production of the much-loved musical in just two weeks.

Having auditioned in May, actors spent a fortnight being put through their paces, learning intense choreography and dance routines, as well as their lines. However, it's not just those in the spotlight who get the opportunity to shine as young people with an interest in the backstage elements turn their hands to operating lighting, sound and scene changes.

Stage Experience producer Becky Charles said: "Audiences have always been thoroughly surprised and impressed by the quality of previous productions and commitment from the cast."

Playing love birds Danny and Sandy are Jordan Ricketts, 18, from Telford, and Georgia Anderson, 20, pictured left.

To keep up to date with the latest news and find out how to audition for next year's production of West Side Story, visit facebook.com/stageexperiencebirmingham



'Audiences have always been impressed'

Poppies are back with new line-up

REFORMED Stourbridge rockers Pop Will Eat Itself will play their only Midlands show of the year when they line up at Bilston's Robin 2 on October 2.

Pop Will Eat Itself v2.0 are Graham Crabb (original drummer, later co-frontman/vocalist & main songwriter), Mary Byker (Gaye Bykers On Acid, Apollo 440, Pigface), Tim Muddiman (Gary Numan & his own band The Strange), Jason Bowld (Bullet For My Valentine, Killing Joke, Pitchshifter) and Davey Bennett (This Burning Age). This line-up was formed in 2011 and last year released second album Anti Nasty League. See www.therobin.co.uk for details.

Spandau star will talk about his life

NEW Romantic pop star turned actor, TV and radio presenter Martin Kemp will be discussing his life and answering fans' questions at Stourbridge Town Hall this autumn.

The 54-year-old found fame with his brother Gary in flamboyant pop group Spandau Ballet in the 1980s, before starring with his brother in 1990 hit movie The Krays.

The Londoner went on to play EastEnders villain Steve Owen and has recently hosted shows on BBC Radio 2.

Tickets for the event, on Friday October 28, cost £20. Call 01384 812 812 or see www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment

Elkie and Gilbert take to the stage

TICKETS have gone on sale for two shows in Birmingham next year featuring singers who found fame in the 1970s.

Birmingham Town Hall will host Elkie Brooks on February 18 and singer-songwriter Gilbert O'Sullivan on March 6.

Elkie, now 71, is best-known for the hits Pearl's A Singer, Lilac Wine, Sunshine After The Rain, Fool (If You Think It's Over), Don't Cry Out Loud and No More The Fool. Brooks' 20th studio album, Powerless, was released in 2010. O'Sullivan had chart-toppers with Clair and Get Down and last year released Latin la la G, inspired by Peggy Lee. See www.thsh.co.uk

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CHOICE



Hugh Grant

There's Something About Romcoms (Channel 4, 9pm)
Meg Ryan, Hugh Grant, Richard Curtis, Rupert Everett and Stephen Merchant are among the stars celebrating the rich and varied history of the rom-com, which has made stars of the likes Renee Zellweger and Kate Hudson, among many more of Hollywood's brightest stars. This programme revisits some of the greatest rom-coms moments ever committed to film, from Meg Ryan 'climactic' scene in When Harry Met Sally to Andie MacDowell and Hugh Grant's romantic entanglements in Four Weddings and a Funeral. Tim Bevan, chairman of the production company Working Title, explains why he believes the British have surpassed American film-makers in the field of the romantic comedy.

BBC1

6.00 Olympic Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen. **11.30** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.45** Olympics 2016. Hazel Irvine presents live coverage from Rio on the 15th and penultimate day of the Games. **5.30** BBC News. **5.40** Regional Programme. **5.50** Olympics 2016. Clare Balding introduces the latest live coverage on day 15, with three live boxing finals from Rio and the men's 10m platform diving final at the Maria Lenk Aquatics Centre. **10.20** BBC News; Weather. **10.40** Match of the Day. Highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Leicester City v Arsenal at King Power Stadium, and Burnley v Liverpool at Turf Moor. The Foxes were appearing at home for the first time as reigning champions, and will have hoped to perform better than they did when hosting the Gunners last season, when they fell to a 5-2 defeat. Meanwhile, The Clarets played their first home game since returning to the top flight since winning the Championship last term, and were looking to register a first Premier League win over Liverpool, having previously lost all four encounters. Plus, action from Stoke City v Manchester City, Swansea City v Hull City, Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace, Watford v Chelsea, West Bromwich Albion v Everton, and Manchester United v Southampton from Friday night; National Lottery Update. **12.10** Olympics 2016. Jason Mohammad presents as the 15th and penultimate day of the Games draws to a close. Various athletics finals take place at the Olympic Stadium including the men's 5,000m at 01.30, which is expected to feature defending champion Mo Farah. The Brit has dominated the event in recent years, not only picking up Olympic gold on home soil but also winning three successive world titles since 2011. Before then, there is the women's high jump final at 00.30, the men's javelin final at 0.55, the men's 1500m final at 01.00 and the women's 800m final at 01.15, with the women's and men's 4x400m relay finals following the men's 5,000m at 02.00 and 02.35 respectively. The women's +67kg and men's +80kg taekwondo finals also take place at Carioca Arena 3 at 02.00 and 02.15, and the women's volleyball final starts at 02.15 at Maracanazinho. **4.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **4.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: Night Song, (1948) **7.55** Film: Whisky Galore! (1949) **9.15** Olympics: Rio Highlights 2016. Action from day 14 at the Olympic Games in Rio. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Fog It! (R) **3.00** Full Steam Ahead. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.30** Olympics 2016. Badminton and diving highlights on day 15. **5.50** The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.00** Gardeners' World. Horticultural ideas and advice. (R) **6.30** Dad's Army. Walmington-on-Sea leaves its mark on a visiting French general when the platoon repaints Lady Matthy's Rolls-Royce just in time for an official engagement. (R) **7.00** Proms Extra. Katie Derham looks at Rachmaninov, the John Wilson Orchestra performing Gershwin and visits the Proms event taking place at Shakespeare's Globe theatre. **7.40** BBC Proms 2016. Katie Derham presents as-live from the Royal Albert Hall as Valery Gergiev conducts the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra in three popular classics – Ravel's hypnotic Bolero, the ravishing suite from Richard Strauss's Der Rosenkavalier and Rachmaninov's romantic Piano Concerto No 3, featuring young pianist Behzod Zohrabi. **8.00** The Bolshoi Ballet's Ustvol'skaya's searing Symphony No 3, subtitled Jesus Messiah, Save Us!, with text read by Alexei Petrenko. **9.40** Edinburgh Nights. Kirsty Wark talks to Booker prize-winning author James Kelman about his new novel, and meets playwrights and performers who are exploring themes of love relationships and fidelity. **10.10** The National Lottery Live. Sonali Shah presents live as the winning Lotto and Thunderball numbers are revealed. Plus, more from the Team GB athletes claiming medals at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. **10.20** Olympics 2016. Clare Balding and Mark Chapman present the latest action on day 15 in Rio, including highlights of the men's modern pentathlon combined race and taekwondo quarter- and semi-finals. **12.10** Film: Infamous. (2006) **2.05** Film: Oslo, August 31st. (2011) **3.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Soaky. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) **8.25** TV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** Film: Columbo: Identity Crisis. (1975) **1.25** TV News; Weather. **1.35** River Monsters. (R) **2.00** The Chase. (R) **3.00** Doc Martin. (R) **4.05** Film: The Mummy Returns. (2001) Fantasy adventure. **6.20** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **6.45** You've Been Framed! Gold. More comical mishaps submitted for approval by viewers, including a baby vomiting on a laptop, a boy's encounter with an explosive egg, and a dog that takes a shine to a teddy bear. (R) **7.15** Spotless. New series. Physical game show in which couples enter immaculate white rooms to complete fiendish wet paint-based games. However, the challenge here isn't to complete the task in record time, instead success rests on their ability to emerge from the ordeal clean and pristine. State-of-the-art 3D scanning technology and high-definition cameras are on hand to help determine whether the competitors have remained spotless enough to claim the cash prize. **8.15** Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, in which contestants Petra Dunne, Sara Manchipp and Zechariah Hemans are challenged to "see it and say it". Last in the series. **9.00** Film: The Bourne Supremacy. (2004) The amnesiac assassin is living quietly in hiding, until his former employers come after him again and murder his girlfriend. A CIA operation has ended in disaster, and those responsible intend to clear their names by implicating Bourne. As the former secret agent tries to evade the hitmen on his trail, he also struggles to piece together the truth about his past. Action thriller sequel, starring Matt Damon. **11.00** ITV News; Weather. **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **12.10** Jackpot247. **3.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The Grid. **6.40** Gillette World Sport. **7.05** Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.20** The Simpsons. (R) **12.45** The Simpsons. (R) **1.15** The Simpsons. (R) **1.45** Channel 4 Racing. Coverage of the final day of the Ebor Festival at York, plus racing from Sandown Park. **4.30** Come Dine with Me. **5.00** Come Dine with Me. **5.35** Come Dine with Me. Fragrance seller Justina is hoping to wow her guests in Preston with a vegan menu and performs reiki on her food to make sure she is in with a chance of winning the £1,000 prize. **6.05** Come Dine with Me. It is the final night in and around Preston and the turn of confident company director Anthony Smith, who is hoping for a winning mix of finger-licking food and fine dining. **6.35** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Film: Men in Black 3. (2012) An alien criminal escapes from a prison on the moon and goes back in time on a mission of revenge, changing the course of history. Agent K of the top-secret Earth defence organisation follows him back to 1969, and joins forces with a younger version of his mentor Agent K to set things right. Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Will Smith, Josh Brolin and Tommy Lee Jones. **9.00** There's Something About Romcoms. Hollywood stars shed light on the making of celebrated rom-coms, from When Harry Met Sally through to Four Weddings and a Funeral and the Bridget Jones films. **10.35** Film: I Give It a Year. (2013) A couple marry after a whirlwind romance, but family and friends have doubts about the relationship. As their first anniversary approaches, they both begin to wonder if they are right for each other, especially when faced with more appealing alternative partners. Romantic comedy, with Rose Byrne, Rafe Spall, Anna Farris and Simon Baker. **12.30** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.20** Film: Call Girl. (2012) **3.45** Hollywoods. (R) **5.45** Superfoods: The Real Story. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.25** The Fairly OddParents. **9.00** The Saturday Show Live. **11.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.05** NCIS: Los Angeles. Callen, Sam and the team spring into action when fellow agent Dom activates a distress signal. They track down his car, which is riddled with bullet holes, and Eric intercepts a signal from his phone, tracing it to a house that contains nothing but some used medical supplies and a dead body. Crime drama, starring Chris O'Donnell and LL Cool J. (R) **7.00** NCIS Movie: Race Against Terror. Feature-length episode. Gibbs is injured in an explosion while conducting inquiries aboard a ship. He lapses into a coma, during which he has flashbacks of the past he has always kept hidden. Meanwhile, Tony takes over the investigation, but his approach begins to cause friction. (R) **8.50** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Sheffield Wednesday v Leeds United at Hillsborough, Birmingham City v Wolverhampton Wanderers at St Andrew's, and Bristol City v Newcastle United at Ashton Gate. **10.00** Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in the Leagues One and Two. **10.30** Celebrity Big Brother. Catching up with the celebrities as they react to Friday night's eviction, revealing how the latest departure has affected the remaining contestants. **11.30** V Festival 2016. The first of two live programmes offering viewers at home a chance to see the headline performance by Justin Bieber at the festivals in Chelmsford and Staffordshire. **12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R) **5.15** Nick's Quest. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
1.00 Olympics 2016 **2.00** Britain on Film: Messing About in Boats **3.00** Sounds of the 70s **3.00** Acoustic at the BBC **3.55** Close
ITV2
11.45 The X Factor: Top 10 Worst Auditions **12.45** Ninja Warrior UK **1.45** You've Been Framed: Gold: A-Z **2.45** Film: Batteries Not Included (1987) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50** Film: Batteries Not Included (1987) **4.50** The X Factor: Top 10 OMG! Moments **5.55** Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00** Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **9.00** Film: Hall Pass (2011) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Hall Pass (2011) **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.35** The Cleveland Show **2.30** Mom **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
2.45 Film: Calamity Jane (1953) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55** Film: Calamity Jane (1953) **4.55** Foyle's War **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.05** Inspector Morse **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
1.00 Film: The Secret War of Harry Frigg (1967) **2.10** FYI Daily **2.15** Film: The Secret War of Harry Frigg (1967) **3.25** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **4.55** The Motorbike Show **6.00** World Series of Darts: Sydney **9.30** Storage Wars **10.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **11.00** Film: Child's Play 2 (1990) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Child's Play 2 (1990) **12.45** The Sweeney **1.45** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 Made in Chelsea: South of France **12.00** New Girl **12.30** The Goldbergs **2.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.30** Film: Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Die Hard (1988) **11.40** Gogglebox **1.20** RuDe Tube: Animal Madness **2.25** Broke Girls **3.05** Angie Tribeca **3.30** Gogglebox **4.10** The Mindy Project **4.50** Revenge
Film4
11.00 Catch That Kid (2004) **1.00** Short Circuit 2 (1988) **3.20** Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009) **6.20** Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (2003) **9.00** The Purge (2013) **10.40** Cheap Thrills (2013) **12.20** In Fear (2013) **2.00** Donkey Punch (2008) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Expecting Amish, Channel 5, 3.15pm

An Amish teenager joins her friends in Los Angeles, expecting to return home after a year and marry her boyfriend. She has an affair with a DJ during the break, which shakes her devotion to her culture. When she realises she is pregnant, she faces being ostracised from her family. Drama, starring AJ Michalka and Alyson Stoner. (2014)

TUESDAY

White Oleander, BBC1, 11.20pm

A 15-year-old girl's happy life is thrown into upheaval when her mother is sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering her lover. Astrid spends the rest of her adolescence drifting from one foster home to another, but her mother remains a constant influence in her life. Drama based on Janet Fitch's novel, starring Alison Lohman, Michelle Pfeiffer, Renee Zellweger, Robin Wright and Billy Connolly. (2002)



Keeping Rosy, Thursday, BBC1, 11.30pm

WEDNESDAY

The Fourth Kind, Channel 4, 12.55am

A psychiatrist in an Alaskan town interviews traumatised patients claiming to suffer from nightmares. Using hypnosis to recover their deepest memories, she is horrified to find evidence they may have been abducted by aliens in an extraterrestrial conspiracy that continues to affect the area. Sci-fi horror, starring Milla Jovovich. (2009)

THURSDAY

Keeping Rosy, BBC1, 11.30pm

A businesswoman who has devoted her life to running a media agency is betrayed by her partners. Emotional and angry, she commits an uncharacteristic violent act and takes increasingly desperate measures to make amends and protect an innocent from further harm. Thriller, starring Maxine Peake. (2014)

FRIDAY

Bird on a Wire, ITV, 10.40pm

A police informant responsible for the conviction of a drug dealer enters a witness protection scheme. Years later, his former college sweetheart recognises him at a petrol station, blowing his cover. Comedy adventure, with Mel Gibson and Goldie Hawn. (1990)

Contestants hope to rise to the challenge

The Olympics are over, so now it's time for another prestigious competition to begin – the hunt for Britain's best amateur baker. And this one involves a lot more cake...

Last year's Great British Bake Off was the most successful series to date, with more than 13 million viewers tuning in to watch Nadiya Hussain take the trophy. It also provided plenty of talking points, including Paul Jagger's amazing bread lion, which won a special commendation from judge Paul Hollywood, a man who isn't known for being easily impressed.

So will the latest run be able to top it? Well, the signs are promising as it seems that after six series of making double entendres and consoling contestants about their soggy bottoms, this time around, presenter Mel Giedroyc has caught the baking bug herself.

She told Prima Magazine: "For the first time this year, I have actually done some!"

"Paul gave us a good recipe for no-knead bread and Sue showed me

how to make soda bread. Cake-wise, we made a pineapple upside-down sponge, which was a bit of a hit with the crew. And I really loved making it."

In fact, she enjoyed it so much that she's admitted that she's discussed opening up a tearoom with co-presenter Sue Perkins once Bake Off is finished.

That won't be for a while yet though, as the new series gets under way and we meet the dozen bakers who will be hoping to wow us with their pastry.

Every year, the standard seems to get higher, and judges Paul and Mary Berry have come up with 30 new challenges designed to test their technical know-how and creative flair. From bread to biscuits, and high-end patisserie to store cupboard classics via beautiful botanical creations, the class of 2016 will have to prove they can do it all.

In the first edition, the focus is on cakes as Paul and Mary take the hopefuls back to basics by asking them to whip up a British classic in

the signature challenge. However, we shouldn't take that to mean that the contestants are being eased in gently, as the judges will be as exacting as ever.

Then it's on to the dreaded technical challenge, which sees them getting to grips with fatless sponges and tricky chocolate work as they attempt to make a popular little cake.

Finally, it's the showstopper, which gives them a chance to really impress – but Paul and Mary are looking for perfection, and someone has to go home...

If that's not quite enough Bake Off action for one week, the episode is followed by The Chronicles of Nadiya, which sees the reigning champion going back to her family's roots in Bangladesh, where she shares some of her favourite recipes.

Then on Friday, BBC Two brings us The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice, as Jo Brand looks at some of the highlights – and lowlights – of the first edition, and chats to the first baker to be evicted from the tent.



The Great British Bake Off, Wednesday, BBC1, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

500 Questions

ITV, 9pm

New series. General knowledge quiz hosted by writer and broadcaster Giles Coren in which contestants bank cash as they progress through rounds of 50 questions, but are eliminated if they answer three in a row incorrectly. This is an intense battle of brainpower that will test even the cleverest of contestants with a relentless stream of demanding questions, meaning intellect, strategy and stamina are all essential in order to win as there are no help, hints or multiple choice options to fall back on.

TUESDAY

One Of Us

BBC1, 9pm

Juliet Stevenson and an equally top drawer cast star in this new drama set in the remote Scottish Highland village of Braeston. When two childhood sweethearts are killed on their return from honeymoon, their families are understandably devastated to hear of the deaths, but their world is turned upside down when the murderer arrives badly injured on their doorstep the night after the killing, leaving them with a terrible dilemma. Good support comes from Joanna Vanderham.

Beauty and the Baker

Channel 4, 10pm

New series. Israeli comedy drama about a baker and a megastar who are galaxies apart but find that sparks fly when their worlds collide. Baker Amos still lives at home with his parents in a cramped apartment in a Tel Aviv suburb and after separating from his nagging girlfriend of nine years, his life changes forever when he meets Noa, one of the richest and most beautiful women in Israel. Starring Aviv Alush. In Hebrew.

WEDNESDAY

Can Britain Have a Payrise?

BBC2, 8pm

New Prime Minister Theresa May has pledged to focus on rewarding hard-working people with higher wages – and there are a lot of people in the UK who will be hoping that applies to them. One in five working adults are officially classed as low paid, and nearly half the British workforce earns less than £20k a year, but can we really expect that to change? James O'Brien and Stephanie

McGovern host a studio debate with 100 people from around the country who represent a different pay levels and who will be answering some very big questions, including whether British employees work hard enough and if bosses are paid too much. Stephanie will also be speaking to experts about the impact Brexit will have on our salaries.

The Watchman

Channel 4, 9pm

Stephen Graham is undoubtedly one of Britain's finest actors, one equally comfortable in Shane Meadows' brilliant urban drama This Is England and the period American setting of Boardwalk Empire. We last saw him in the BBC's The Secret Agent, and now he's back on our screens in this one-off drama, playing father-of-two Carl, a CCTV operator who spends his working days alone, watching the world through a series of screens. But Carl is becoming increasingly horrified and frustrated by the events he witnesses, and particularly by what he considers to be the police's inability to bring criminals to book. ▶ When they refuse to tackle a group of drug dealers, Carl decides to intervene – setting in motion a terrifying chain of events.



One Of Us, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY

The Premier League Show

BBC2, 10pm

New series. Gabby Logan and Ian Wright present the magazine programme featuring news and action from the Premier League, plus interviews with the country's biggest football stars. In the first edition, Gary Lineker chats to Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, who led the Reds to the finals of the League Cup and Europa League in his first season in charge. A 4-0 thrashing of Barcelona during pre-season will have done much to lift the spirits, despite being followed by a thumping 4-0 loss away to FSV Mainz 05 just 24 hours later.

FRIDAY

Celebrity Big Brother: Live Final

Channel 5, 9pm

Former I'm a Celebrity winner Christopher Biggins was once the darling of the reality TV stage. After being banished from the house at an early stage for some unguarded remarks, the one-time series' favourite will probably be maintaining a low profile as the denouement is played out. Emma Willis presents highlights of the past 24 hours, before one of the remaining housemates is declared winner. In the aftermath of the big announcement, Emma chats to those residents who made the last day.

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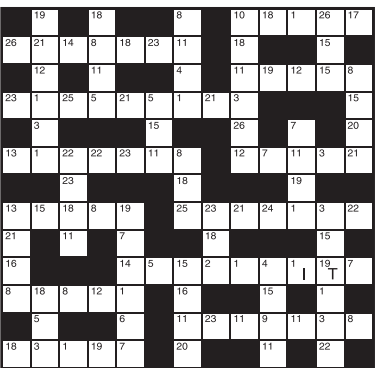
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BRAIN GYM No.391

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



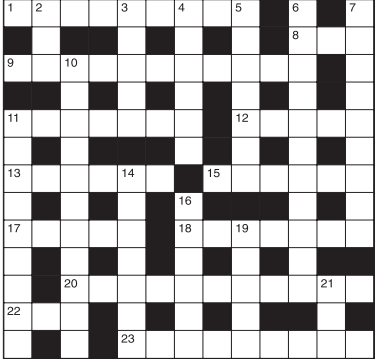
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
H W S V A T C L M P X B U
Y Q I O J F Z E N K G D R

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

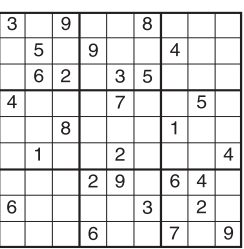
- Across**
- 1. A hearty meal of leguminous food? (4-5)
 - 8. It's currently charged in associations (3)
 - 9. This is just a mess! (4,7)
 - 11. Plenty upset about a fine (7)
 - 12. It's gloomy when five hundred get back (5)
 - 13 & 15Ac. The fairies associated with Lilliput (6,6)
 - 15. See 13 Across
 - 17. The sailor in bed is an early explorer... (5)
 - 18. ...as seen in strange tales of the briny! (3-4)
 - 20. Exhausted, in an attitude of prayer (2,4,5)
 - 22. Structure that is just antediluvian! (3)
 - 23. Sham head-dress - don't believe it! (9)
- Down**
- 2. Sound receiver used in the army (3)
 - 3. The point that will give a well-defined image (5)
 - 4. A din we hear causes vexation (6)
 - 5. Foot-plate (7)
 - 6. Part of the service provided for the main meal (6,5)
 - 7. As a rebel, he could be unresting (9)
 - 10. Very small tomes kept by the secretary (6,5)
 - 11. Male cop in disguise (9)
 - 14. Causes a detonation - exacts no penalty (4,3)
 - 16. In addition to being a bigwig! (2,4)
 - 19. Frank Lester reveals a low joint (5)
 - 21. I will show each good omen, initially (3)



Quick Clues:

- Across**
- 1. Uncompounded (9)
 - 8. Abrade (3)
 - 9. Finite (11)
 - 11. Duck (7)
 - 12. Rub clean (5)
 - 13. Fracture (6)
 - 15. Attract (6)
 - 17. Memorise (5)
 - 18. Designate (7)
 - 20. Instructive (11)
 - 22. Tin (3)
 - 23. Insipid (9)
- Down**
- 2. Untruth (3)
 - 3. Mistake (5)
 - 4. Strove (6)
 - 5. Bond (7)
 - 6. Foreboding (11)
 - 7. Hateful (9)
 - 10. Disposition (11)
 - 11. Disproportion (9)
 - 14. Guide (7)
 - 16. Worry (6)
 - 19. Self-esteem (5)
 - 21. Idiot (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >
7 2 1 8 4 9 5 3 6
3 4 8 5 1 6 9 7 2
9 6 5 7 3 2 8 1 4
4 7 2 6 5 1 3 9 8
5 1 3 4 8 2 6 7
6 8 9 3 2 7 4 5 1
2 3 6 9 7 4 1 8 5
1 9 7 2 4 5 6 3 8
8 5 4 1 6 3 7 2 9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Norman; 8 Repeat; 10 Waggoner; 11 Total; 12 Hind; 13 Piano; 17 Forte; 18 Male; 22 Ropes; 23 Contest; 24 Stress; 25 Bertha. Down: 1 Know the; 2 Origins 3 Paint; 4 Heating; 5 Parts; 6 Stale; 9 Armistice; 14 Possess; 15 Magenta; 16 Central; 19 Brush; 20 Spare; 21 Under. QUICK - Across: 7 Ration; 8 Strife; 10 Venture; 11 Rogue; 12 Deep; 13 Pinch; 17 Tepid; 18 Mute; 22 Start; 23 Niggard; 24 Depart; 25 Detain. Down: 1 Provide; 2 Stunted; 3 Bogus; 4 Attract; 5 Tinge; 6 Repeat; 9 Deficient; 14 Lecture; 15 Runaway; 16 Heading; 19 Aside; 20 Happy; 21 Agree.

Quiz

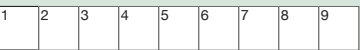
- 1. Which sinister oriental villain was the creation of Sax Rohmer?
- 2. On which island is the active volcano Pico de Teide?
- 3. In which novel did Squire Trelawney call the Hispaniola?
- 4. What did America develop in the Manhattan Project?
- 5. Which car registration letter was launched in 1994?
- 6. Which clergyman is 'Primate of England'?
- 7. Which actor was born Richard Jenkins?
- 8. What is the collective name for birds of the genus Corvus?
- 9. Which sport adopted the Queensberry rules in 1867?
- 10. Which comedian co-wrote the book Life and How to Survive It?

Last week's solutions:
Quiz: 1 Jane Fonda; 2 Alps; 3 Dock; 4 Record Breakers; 5 Korea; 6 Child Support Agency; 7 George and Ira Gershwin; 8 Ray; 9 Barbara Windsor; 10 Kelvin.
Niner: PASTURING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

24391 gives a game,
5436781 gives a second game,
64186477 gives a third game.



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7 OCT • MURDER MYSTERY WEEKEND LLANDUDNO
8 OCT • YORK RACES - CORAL SPRINT TROPHY
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Forget work hustle and bustle and just enjoy the Mowment

GONE are the days when the working day draws to its welcome conclusion and people slump off home, despondent, for their TV dinner.

Nowadays many are looking at each other, aghast, and suggesting: 'shall we go out?' The next question is: 'where to go?'

Well I have found the solution. Why not head off to Penn? The golf club to be precise. The Barley Mow is a beautiful place tucked away amid the hustle and bustle of a working city.

Approaching the venue there is a real heart-in-mouth moment symbolising a change from urban to olde worlde. The dwellings on either side quickly end and the road appears to just vanish.

The lovely, bright evening we decided to

Leigh Sanders tucks in

pay the pub a visit was obviously playing host to the Wolverhampton Dog Walkers' Society who had called an impromptu meeting in the sunshine. There was a real plethora of pooches, differing sizes, breeds and colours. It added to the countryside feel.

Now if you are over 6ft this is a real adventure. This pub may actually have been intended for hobbits. Bent over almost double, like that scene at the beginning of Lord of The Rings where Gandalf first bodes his welcome to Frodo, we popped in.

The bar area, keeping in size with the rest of the venue, is decorated with all manner of foreign coinage, sport and comedy ticket stubs from venues across the city so there is plenty to chatter about and keep you entertained while you wait to be served.

Note to diners: there is very limited seat-

ing space in the two rooms behind you – the table count barely breaking double figures – so any empty tables should be watched for like a hawk. Such is the popularity of the venue that these perching spots can often be full, so waiting may be required. But wait you should. It's worth it!

Signal

In keeping with the adventure theme, the menus are provided on the walls, so take note of what catches your eye and then return to the bar to order. The lack of phone signal in this area forces us humans to interact.

Starters don't really get too much of a look-in here so just mains were ordered. And when these arrived it was probably just as well. I had three tender lamb cutlets in a sweet jus with the largest mound of mashed potato and mixed veg. The mash was a lit-

tle too lumpy for my taste although it was creamy and very filling. The lamb was soft and tasty and fell away from the bone with relative ease.

My friend was in the mood for a pie and had the steak and stilton option with chips and another serving of veg. She commented on how 'homely' it felt and was chuffed at how much meat was inside.

It wasn't long before it became apparent about the venue's slight downfall. The size meant that when it was busy it was loud. And with the number of people and cooked food it did get a little warm.

But regardless of how full and sticky we were, we could not resist the desserts, sticky toffee pudding for me but my companion went straight for the chocolate fudge cake.

Polite staff, lovely food and a good selection of beers. This little corner of rural paradise is a great choice for a bit of R and R.

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HALESOWEN
£335,000

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Sedgley town centre boasts excellent local amenities including retail shops and restaurants. This impressive property offers a spacious open plan layout with a secure entry into a communal entrance, an open plan style lounge/diner and a fitted kitchen area with space for appliances. There are two good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom.

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HALESOWEN, Summerfields Avenue£825 pcm+Fees
A superb 3 bedroom refurbished semi-detached house comprising of: entrance hall, 2 reception rooms, beautiful kitchen, 2 double & 1 single bedrooms, house bathroom with separate shower, rear garden & driveway for 1 car and a garage, this family home is situated in a very popular location and offers a very long rental opportunity. EPC: D



DUDLEY, Lister Road £775 pcm+Fees
A superbly presented & refurbished 3 bedroom detached traditional house situated in a popular well established neighborhood close to excellent local amenities and with easy access to transport links. This impressive property offers a beautiful lounge, modern fitted kitchen/utility area with wc, 3 good size bedrooms, family bathroom private rear garden, garage & driveway parking. EPC: TBC



AMBLESCOTE, High Street £775 pcm+Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent a home on a select development, 'Crystal Gardens'. This home features a spacious lounge/dining area, well appointed kitchen, downstairs WC, the 1st floor has 2 bedrooms & a family bathroom & on the 2nd floor there is a master bedroom with a large en-suite, 2 allocated parking spaces, front & rear gardens. This property will not be available for long. Minimum contract 12 months. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Wassell Road£675 pcm+Fees
A large unfurnished semi-detached house in central Halesowen which features: entrance porch, lounge, fully fitted kitchen, covered side entrance, private rear garden, 3 good size bedrooms, large bathroom with shower over bath, garage & driveway. Also benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Wroxley House£625 pcm+Fees
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb luxury 1st floor apartment available immediately. Offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Long Lane £575 pcm+Fees
A well presented 2 bedroom mid terrace property close to railway & bus links. This modern home benefits from double glazing and briefly comprises: hallway, spacious lounge, kitchen, conservatory, 2 bedrooms, bathroom suite & shower over bath, electric storage heaters, front & rear garden and parking to the rear of the property. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Holt Road £575 pcm+Fees
Minutes away from Rowley Regis Train Station, not far from the M5 J2 and Blackheath Town Centre. A nicely presented refurbished mid terraced home. Featuring 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, 2 spacious reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, downstairs bathroom with shower, double glazing, central heating, small rear garden, on road parking. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Beaumont Road£575 pcm+Fees
Ideally located in Blackheath for local amenities, train station close by and the M5. This large 2 double bedroom end terraced house features 2 reception rooms with 1 reception having slate flooring and a working wood burner, fitted kitchen, utility room with washing machine, 2 double bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, court yard rear garden, on road parking and off road parking available for 1 car plus garage (accessed from Clifton Road). EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Bethesda Gardens£550 pcm+Fees
Located on this new build estate is this modern ground floor apartment, coming unfurnished, briefly comprising of: 2 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, modern bathroom with shower, fitted kitchen with white goods, open plan spacious lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. A must view property. EPC: C



WORDSLEY, Wordsley Court£535 pcm+Fees
1st floor fully refurbished large apartment within walking distance of Wordsley Green & King George V park. Featuring lovely lounge, 2 generous size double bedrooms, fitted kitchen, shower room, secure parking to rear of property. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Delingpole Walk£525 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished mid news house, in a well sought after location, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, downstairs WC, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, 2 allocated parking spaces. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Tenterfields £495 pcm+Fees
A superb 1st floor flat in central Halesowen with parking space. This lovely apartment features a lovely lounge, fitted kitchen (no white goods), bathroom with shower, double bedroom, gas central heating, communal garden. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£485 pcm+Fees
This lovely and well kept unfurnished 2nd floor flat briefly features 2 bedrooms, electric storage heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen with some appliances, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space, close to local shops and Old Hill Train Station. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Brett Young Close£475 pcm+Fees
Situated within a few minutes walk of Halesowen Town Centre and local bus station for buses into Birmingham City Centre. This well presented 1 double bedroom ground floor apartment features a fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, house bathroom with shower, cosy lounge, double glazing, gas central heating and 1 allocated parking space. EPC: B



ROWLEY REGIS, Alwin Road£450 pcm+Fees
A 1 bedroom ground floor flat being double glazed with electric heating. The accommodation, which has been refurbished briefly comprises a reception hall, lounge, kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom, communal gardens and parking. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, King Street£440 pcm+Fees
Located in the heart of Old Hill. Ideally situated for local shops, buses and train links is this unfurnished 1st floor modern apartment which comprises of 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with a small fridge, spacious lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



BRIERLEY HILL, Norwood Road£425 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished end terraced house, close to local shops and not far from Merry Hill Shopping Centre. This large house features a lovely living room, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden, on road parking. EPC: E



STOURBRIDGE, Bagley Street£425 pcm+Fees
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NETHERTON, St Georges Road£395 pcm+Fees
Beautiful refurbishment in a quiet location. This 1st floor apartment features electric storage heating, living room, brand new kitchen, 1 very large double bedroom, modern house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking space. Viewing recommended to appreciate this nicely proportioned flat. EPC: D



LYE, High Street £325 pcm+Fees
Located in the centre of Lye at Lye Cross. This 2nd floor flat above shops features a large lounge, kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, and is available immediately. EPC: TBC



LYE, High Street £285 pcm+Fees
A 1st floor studio apartment in the centre of Lye Town, also close for Lye Train Station. Featuring a combined lounge/ bedroom, fitted kitchen with electric cooker, shower room, electric heater, shared laundry room, parking at rear, private communal area with seating. EPC: TBC

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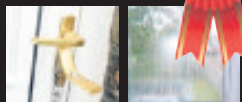
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• Lladro • Old coins
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• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
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Pre-47 silver coins All war medals etc
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/ Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh
/ any live steam. Also Die Cast,
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
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hotmail.com

READERS ARE ADVISED to care-
fully consider all of their options
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their items.
SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted also
any old crash magazines wanted.
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furniture
MAHOGANY BERESFORD
AND HICKS DINING ROOM
SUITE
8 chairs, pullout table, ornate
legs, corner unit and display
cabinet with lights. £100 ono.
Call 01902 340457 or
07956 464554.

TWO DRAW single divan bed, hardly
used. £35. Two cream chest of
drawers, natural pine tops / handles
£40. Excellent 07835 387988.

items wanted

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All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft
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It is an offence under the Gas
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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner
ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses have the required
Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
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BSA LIGHTNING 2.2 air rifle, AGS
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07922 609987.

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NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when
purchasing a puppy there are
some simple guidelines you can
follow to ensure that you are not
purchasing from a Puppy
Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with it's
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any
KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
establishment.

BLACK STANDARD POODLE
Puppies, KC reg, excellent pedi-
gree £550. 07878 294508.

GOLDEN LAB Male Puppy KC
applied, 9 weeks, FTC Lines, 1st
vac's, fleed, wormed to date, last
one of litter. £650. 07938 598881.

JACK RUSSELL puppies,
microchipped, vet checked, injec-
tions. £260. 01384 233910.

KITTENS X 2 both girls, one
tortoiseshell, one black and white,
£25 to ensure good home.
07460 345164.

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property
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independent legal advice before
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KOI CARP for sale, beautiful
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and feeding features.
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SHIH TZU Puppies beautiful and
healthy, wormed, vet checked, vac-
cinated. £495. 01902 593134.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities
READERS are recommended to
take appropriate professional
advice before entering any
obligations.

6 Property

accommodation to let
NOTICE TO READERS It is an
offence under the Accommodation
Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency
to charge a fee simply for the regis-
tration of your requirements and/or
supplying particulars of premises to
let.

DUDLEY Clean, furnished bedsit
with own bath/kitchen, £87 p/w, for
mature DSS. 07550 002549.

PENDEFORD PARK: Two-bed flat,
unfurnished, garage, £450 pcm,
Pets / Deposit. 07783 252222.

SMART ROOMS in shared house.
Netherton, from £85 pwk. Single,
£95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS.
07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

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independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
ments.

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Black Country Homes

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Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS

We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit...
you can clear your debts
and make a fresh start

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Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
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Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

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8 Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN C5 2.2 diesel, red, Sep 02, 2 owners, 130k miles, full MoT, 4 new tyres, main dealer full service July 2016. £750. 01785 212140. Call Andy 07874 124720.

DISCOVERY 200TDI, 1993, 169,000 miles, black, electric windows, auto, central locking, blue cloth, owned 15 years, no MoT. £1,250. 01902 663663.

FIAT PUNTO 51 reg, green, 83,000 miles, 11 months MoT. £375 ono. 01384 354821.

FORD FIESTA 1.2, 5dr, hatch, 2001, 48k miles, MoT 2017. Immaculate, met blue. £585. 07771 428793.

FORD KA CONVERTIBLE 2004, 54,000 miles, 2 owners, long MoT. FSH. £995. o.n.o. 07954 437625.

FORD MONDEO 54 plate, MoT June 2017, 49,000 miles, service history, £1,100 ono. 07593 508952.

FORD STREETKA Luxury 1.6, convertible, 2004, silver. Long MoT, new parts, good condition, £800 ono. 01384 258713.

HONDA CIVIC 1.6 ESI 5dr Hatchback, silver metallic, 10 months MoT. W reg, £950. o.n.o. 01902 340924 / 07847 633917.

HYUNDAI ACCENT, 2002, silver, 108,000 miles, petrol, 6 months MoT, good runner, £350 ono. 07813 162522.

MERCEDES A CLASS 180 2005, 2 owners, 2.0 diesel, MoT July 2017, excellent, 192K £1.450 07957 016715.

RENAULT Clio GRANDE 2001, 59k miles, 11 months MoT, new cambelt, 2dr, SSR, alloys, ideal first car, £350 ono. 01384 654058.

RENAULT SCENIC 16 valve, 113,000 miles, full MoT, tow bar, excellent runner, £400 ono. 07594 086954.

TOYOTA COROLLA 1.6GS, 5dr hatch, T reg, 12 months MoT, low miles, fsh, clean car £525. 07967 240349 or 07271 795145.

VAUXHALL AGILA 2002, 1.2, 9 months MoT, very tidy, 120,000 miles. £395. 07833 645688.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0, 06 reg, next owner, chain and clutch, MoT, black, £800 ono. 07519 603982.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2004, 1.2 petrol, full MoT, silver, 5dr, 52,000 miles, FSH, EW, PAS, CD player, £1,095. 07504 305018.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 06 reg, blue, MoT Nov, 83k miles, some service history, good condition, £950 ono. 01902 289563, 07837 858931.

VW GOLF 1.4, 2001 in silver, 76,000 miles, FSH, 12 months MoT, new cam belt, water pump, breaks, coilovers, Audi TT wheels, excellent condition. £1,400 ono.

01902 306544 / 07814 336980.

cars over £1500

BMW Z4 Si SPORT 2.5 2007, silver, black leather, 18ms alloys, AC, elec roof, heated seats, EM, EW, radio CD, 2 owners, BMW FSH, MoT Oct, 75,500 miles. £6,495 ono. 07860 291748.

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We have a package to suit every budget. Packages start from as little as

£21.00 for 6 nights

Plus 6 nights free if you do not sell.

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CHRYSLER YPSILON 2012, 1.2, 5dr, alloy wheels, full electrics, full MoT, immaculate condition. £3,495. 07460 116516.

CITROEN C4, 2008, 2 door, hatchback, 1.6 VTR, petrol, blue, 36,000 miles, fsh, MoT, good condition / runner. £2,695 ono. 07847 456061.

FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.4, 2010, 40,000 miles, 12 months MoT, Titanium top spec model. Fully loaded with extras. £6,250. o.n.o. 07841 500297.

FORD FIESTA STYLE 2006, 35,000 Miles, Blue, electric windows, air bag, fsh, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, one owner, pas, Stereo, CD. Some scratches on front wing. £1,650 ono. 07800972876

FORD FIESTA ZETEC 09 Excellent condition, 64,000 miles, MoT due next year, full service history, magenta. £4,350 ono 07891 874920

FORD FIESTA Style Climate, 2008, 3-dr hatch, petrol, 13cc, silver, MoT July 2017, 69,000 miles, very clean in and out. £1,600. 07838 897693.

FORD FOCUS 1.6, 08, 70k miles, MoT August 2017, all previous owner, alloys, EW, AC, EM, CD, HFS. £2,895 ono. 07730 496811.

NISSAN NOTE Acenta MPV, 2008, met grey, black interior, AC, alloys, EW, CD, 80k, 2 keys, FSH, MoT, £2,495 ono. 07770 309600.

NISSAN QASHQAI 2013, one owner, 30,000 miles, all electrics, MoT, 12 months MoT, £4,700. 07459 784565.

RENAULT CLIO Campus Sport, 2007, 1.2 16v, 3-dr, 25,000 miles, Renault FSH, EW, AC, MoT January, £2000. 07914 084189.

VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 DESIGN, 2010, petrol, 63k, silver, air con, twin sunroof, fsh, MoT Feb 2017, very good condition, £1,995. 07700 278150.

VAUXHALL MOCCA 1.6blue met 14 reg, 21k, FSH, 4 cameras, heated seats, spare wheel with tools. £11,500. 01384 294060.

VAUXHALL TIGRA coupe, 08, 1346cc, met black / black interior, 40k, MoT April, alloys, CD, etc, any trial. £2,750 ono. 07770 309600.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9TDI, 2007, silver, 42,000 miles, one previous owner, Sat Nav, front and rear parking aids, 12 months MoT, £2,500 ono. 01562 631640.

VW GOLF 1.9 TDI, diesel, 04, black, 5 speed, AC, FSH, with cam belt at 120k, long MoT, drives well. £1795. 07831 609261. 01384 258061.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer, instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

VAUXHALL COMBO van, 1700 diesel, 06 reg, 11 months MoT, 56,000 miles, £1,800. 07828 111032.

driving tuition

Homer's
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
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ADDITIONAL 50% OFF on vouchers for 10
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
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motorbikes

TRIUMPH BONNEVILLE America, 06 plate, 10,000 miles, £1,500 worth of extras, £4,000. 07922 609987.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures, Best Prices Paid ELV Registered
Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
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Buyer could call.
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A1 AUTOS WANTED
CARS, VANS, 4x4s, SCRAP, MoT FAILURES, ANY CONDITION
£50-£10,000
WE BUY QUALITY USED CARS
07527 303 336
(24/7, any area) T&C Apply

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

accessories & services

MORRIS MINOR VAN / PICKUP
complete used chassis, needs some repairs. £425 ono. Morris Minor Van ex GPO parts, wood / mesh partition, £250, ladder rack £225, needs some repairs. 07986 318514. 07393 62483.

RENAULT SET OF FOUR Alloy wheels, five stud, 2/55/R16, £120. 07903 678531.

SET OF 5 STUD ALLOYS (4) size 215 / 65R 16, new tyres. £100 ono. 01902 826690.

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk**

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

ROGER MARTIN EDINBOROUGH (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 62 Halesowen Road Halesowen West Midlands B62 9BA, who died on 02/06/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 21/10/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
CLARKE WILLMOTT LLP
138 Edmund Street
Birmingham B3 2ES
7479544

RONALD BENJAMIN BEST (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 46 Wesley Avenue Halesowen West Midlands B63 2PJ, who died on 25/05/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 28/10/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
DAVSONS SOLICITORS
1886-1888 Pershore Road
Birmingham B30 3AS
7480042

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vehicles wanted

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spares & accessories

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SET OF 5 STUD ALLOYS

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RENAULT SET

Latin-style back in for SEAT with rise in sales

With a raft of stunning award-winning new models released last year, SEAT's inexorable rise continues. The brand has reported record sales in the UK and the Spanish brand has rediscovered its reputation for eye-catching Latin style.

Leon

The new third generation Leon family is very attractively styled, even sportier to drive, classier inside and out and fitted with super-efficient engines and plenty of hi-tech equipment. Little wonder then that the stunning Leon 5-door hatch, sleekly-styled Leon SC three-door sports coupe and hot Leon Cupra model are in such high demand. So are Leon ST estate models, the latest of which is the high performance ST Cupra 280. Then there's the Leon X-PERIENCE, a very credible ruggedised all-wheel drive Leon ST estate. The Leon range is exactly the car the Spanish brand needs to resurrect its fortunes in the Focus-class sector.

Mii

Also achieving sales success for SEAT is the Mii citycar which offers the Spanish manufacturer a leading role in a sub-supermini segment. SEAT has added a thoughtful value proposition to a car that's undoubtedly spacious, frugal and clever.

Ibiza

The revised fourth generation Ibiza supermini offers small car buyers a smarter set of more eco-conscious hi-tech talents. Whichever Ibiza bodystyle you choose – five-door hatch, ST estate or the sportier three-door SC, you should be delighted with your choice.

If you're a practically-minded family buyer on a supermini budget who really needs the kind of space you'd find on something much bigger, then you're target market for SEAT's attractive fourth generation Toledo four-door saloon, now even more affordable and well equipped. With space for five, durable build quality, low running costs and an enormous boot, it's a lot of car for the money.

Alhambra

With up to seven seats that fold into the floor thanks to the Easy-Fold seating system, sliding side doors and a plethora of storage options give it strong practical credentials. SEAT's big latest Alhambra is one of the best models in its seven-seat MPV class. Modern turbocharged engines keep costs down too.

Ateca

SEAT's latest model is the Ateca. It looks a strong proposition in the family Crossover segment. It's well priced, sharply-styled and offers the sporty feel the sector seems to want. In fact, you wonder why it took the Spanish brand so long to bring us a car like this.

Under skin, the Ateca sits on the same MQB platform as its more conventional Leon stablemate and uses most of the same mechanicals found in Volkswagen's very similar Tiguan model. Inside, its fit and finish is of high quality.

In the front, there's decent room for two adults on supportive seats. It's the same in the back. The boot's a bit smaller than that pricier Volkswagen rival model, but it will easily swallow a couple of big cases and a pushchair. You access it via a tailgate offering the option of power operation: it's one of those you can activate by waving your foot beneath the bumper.

SEAT promises a line-up of petrol and diesel engines ranging in power from 115 to 190PS – expect a couple of petrol units and three diesels.

There's the choice of six-speed manual or optional dual-clutch automatic transmission, plus four-wheel drive will be available on the diesels.

In summary, if you were just about to buy a family crossover, an Ateca is certainly worth a look.



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Civic 1.8 SE Plus Navi 5dr
OUR PRICE £15,999

SAVE £4,546

Metallic option £500

- climate control dual auto (a/c)
- Bluetooth®
- City Brake Active System
- 17" alloys
- cruise control
- front & rear parking sensors
- rear parking camera
- Honda Connect with Garmin® satellite navigation

CR-V 1.6 EX Auto Diesel
OUR PRICE £29,999

SAVE £5,261



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- Bluetooth®
- City Brake Active System
- 18" alloys
- cruise control
- front & rear parking sensors
- rear parking camera
- leather upholstery
- panoramic glass roof
- privacy glass
- smart keyless entry & start
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No hiding place in Juke!

If you need a car that blends into the background look somewhere else. Nissan's Juke has sold like hot cakes and the latest update keeps the design extreme but adds smarter technology, cleaner engines and more personalisation options.

Though the existing 110PS 1.5-litre dCi diesel continues unchanged, there's otherwise quite a bit of change to report beneath the Juke's stubby bonnet when it comes to the pair of petrol powerplants on offer: one is new to the Juke and the other extensively revised.

The 1.2-litre DIG-T petrol engine replaces the original model's aging 1.6-litre unit

and features turbocharging and direct injection to deliver 115ps and 190Nm of torque. Despite its modest size, this 1197cc turbo four packs a real punch, offering sharper acceleration and greater torque. The popular 1.6 DIG-T turbo petrol unit has been further improved to deliver lower end torque below 2,000rpm. Producing 190PS, this is available in both front and all-wheel drive versions. Go for an all-wheel drive variant and you have the option to specify the Xtronic transmission gearbox, which further improves fuel efficiency and acceleration.

The Juke's elevated stance but diminutive overall length doesn't promise a stellar driving experience, but as the last model proved, within a few yards you'll realise that this is a fun car to hustle about. Nissan Dynamic Control helps; an advanced driver control



FACT FILE

Nissan Juke

PRICES: £13,930

INSURANCE: 11E-20

CO2: [1.2 DIG-T] 126g/km

PERFORMANCE: [1.5 dCi] 0-60 10.8s / top speed 109mph

ECONOMY: [1.5 dCi] (combined) 61.4 mpg

SAFETY: stability control, traction control, ABS with EBA, EBD, twin front, side and curtain airbags

system giving the choice of three different driving modes, Normal, Sport or Eco, along with instant driving information and vehicle setting controls.

The torque vectoring system on the latest all-wheel drive model incorporates technology that Nissan initially used to such devastating effect on their GT-R supercar-slayer.

Yes, the Juke does still look like either something dredged up from the abyssal depths of the ocean or a fun, friendly and futuristic little runabout, depending on your perspective.

Whichever camp you're in, you have to

hand it to Nissan for not losing its resolve and watering this version down. Nissan also offers coloured inserts which can be applied to the mirror caps, side sills, roof spoiler and door handles in order to further personalise the exterior.

The Juke has deservedly carved itself a lucrative niche for itself with an inexpensive vehicle that drives well, is cheap to run and which isn't afraid to assert its own personality.

The latest changes add tech inside and some uprated petrol engines. It continues to be the car that none of its rivals have come close to answering.

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Committee members Malcolm Raybould, Dave McLean, Brian Lester, Roger Brindley and Simon Cater



Trophy presented to Springvale's Mally Whitehouse



Roger Brindley hands over a cheque to Simon Cater



A Pensnett Panthers quartet with the County Cup



Bradmore Social's Lee Brookes with Brian Lester

Beacon League teams make light work of a successful season

THE Beacon League is on the lookout for new clubs to join ahead of its 40th anniversary next season.

At the league's end-of-season awards, chairman Brian Lester heaped praise on the achievements of its member clubs during the recently finished campaign, while also casting an eye on the future. Plans are already in place to form a veterans section for over-35s.

"We have already had three firm applications," said Lester. "We just need another three teams. It's a great opportunity for those in that age group to pass on their skills to others."

The past season saw 17 teams compete across two divisions, with the league keen to add more teams as it prepares to celebrate four decades of Sunday football.

Success

"If we can attract new teams into the league they'll find a friendly and helpful approach from the league," said Lester.

"Every side that joins will be given every support to flourish and I think that's quite important," said Lester.

The awards ceremony also gave members the chance to reflect on a 2015/16 season in which Bea-

SPORTING FEATURE

By Dave McLean

"We've had a very successful season, particularly in the two outside cups that are run by Birmingham County FA."

con teams excelled both on the domestic front and in outside cup competitions.

First Division Pensnett Panthers and Premier Division Dynamo Dudley reached their respective Sunday Amateur Cup and Vase county finals, with success going to the former.

The duo also won their league championships, while Dynamo completed a superb treble, winning the NDT (Midlands) Premier Cup for a third consecutive year and lifting the Lester Charity Cup.

Springvale Steelers Academy were the other major league winners, defeating Pensnett Panthers in a thrilling Falcon Insurance Beacon final and also finishing runners-up in the First Division.

Members from each of the winning teams were present to collect awards, while Bradmore Social's Lee Brookes was named secretary of the year and a cheque for £210 was presented to Compton Hospice fundraiser Simon Cater from league treasurer Roger Brindley. Newcomers New Park Village scooped the fair play award.

Lester said: "I think we've had a very successful season, particularly in the two outside cups that are run by Birmingham County FA. Pensnett's victory in the county final was a tremendous achievement for the league, while Dynamo Dudley also represented the league with pride and no less little impressive football."

Aspects

"It's been a very good season in terms of what we've done on the pitch, and one of the more pleasing aspects for me was when I've been round the grounds and watched matches."

"It's been a partnership very much between ourselves (the committee) and the club's and particularly the new clubs, who have said how much they've enjoyed the season with us."

"Hopefully they will be looking to continue with us."

New teams wishing to apply for the 2016/17 season or the veterans section should call league development officer Dave Clinton on 07964 730275.



Dynamo Dudley's Scott Lloyd, Aaron Lloyd and Joe Lawley



New Park Village coaches Phil Hall and John Williams are honoured by Brian Lester

Sport

League rings changes to mark 40th anniversary

Page 35



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Athletes on right track for success

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club got into the Olympic spirit on Friday with an evening of track racing. But unlike the exotic surroundings of Rio they ploughed their circular furrow at The Dell stadium in Brierley Hill as the club hosted their Magic Mile event.

The evening involved a number of races over a mile with all competitors asked for their previous times so they could be seeded and allocated a start time to ensure they were racing against others of a similar ability. This made for an entertaining and very competitive night.

With the event open to runners from the Sweatshop Running Community (SRC) and a few invited guests, as well as the host club, more than 130 athletes pinned a number to their vest on an evening where races came thick and fast at 15 minute intervals.

Trophy

Dudley Kingswinford's Helen Tromans was the fastest female on the night winning her heat by a considerable distance to clock a time of 6.12, from the SRC duo of Lauren Sanders in 6.47 (good enough an age group prize) and Louise Sanders in 6.50. Catherine Mayall of SRC won the F35 prize in 7.05.

The men's event was a little more competitive but again the winner was in little doubt as Sam Lloyd-Perks took away the trophy, running for Sweatshop. Thee Wolverhampton & Bilston athlete clocked a lightning fast time of 4.55 for victory.

Meanwhile, runner up Alex Sobierski claimed the fastest M35 prize with a time of 5.01. Stuart Perkins was third in 5.09 and Dave Norman was fourth bagging the 1st M45 prize in 5.21.

Yozza's in line to make first Grand Slam appearance

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes is in line to be the only Black Country thrower at Wolverhampton's Grand Slam of Darts.

The only PDC tournament to formally invite players from the BDO takes place for a ninth year at the Civic Hall, from November 12-20. Tipton's Hughes is in the running to secure a place and make his Grand Slam debut.

The organisation's champion, Scott Waites, is one of four who qualify automatically and is the only BDO thrower to have won the Grand Slam, in 2010.

World Championship runner-up Jeff Smith, World Masters winner Glen Durrant and World Trophy titlist Darryl Fitton are also in. The remaining four places for the BDO will be assigned to their highest-ranked competitors who haven't already qualified. Hughes currently has the last spot as their world No 6 with Danny Noppert, Martin Adams and Scott Mitchell above him.

The final field for the competition will be determined on Monday October 24.

Grand Slam tickets are on sale now at the box office on 0870 320 7000 or online via www.theticketfactory.com/pdc.

Worrall at the double for Hammer win



Steve Worrall

FORMER Cradley Heathens hero Steve Worrall made history with a dramatic win in the 2016 F.A.S.T Golden Hammer at Monmore Green.

Worrall became the first rider of the modern era to win their showpiece individual event on two occasions after a tense run-off win over Kyle Howarth.

Having also won the prize in 2014, he joins an illustrious club of multiple Golden Hammer winners alongside former world champions Erik Gundersen and Sam Ermolenko plus iconic British talent Kenny Carter. Worrall, who led Heathens to a

Speedway

clean sweep of National League honours two years ago, roared around Wolves reserve Kyle Howarth on the opening bend of heat two for a crucial victory.

Home favourite Ashley Morris lowered Worrall's colours with a brave first bend in heat seven, but Worrall sliced under Cradley skipper Max Clegg on the fourth bend of lap two to limit the damage.

From then, he was imperious – reeling off three successive race wins. His heat

18 win over Josh Bates, who looked set to challenge for the crown himself when he broke Morris's National League track record in heat one, ensured Worrall was guaranteed at least a run-off.

Third was Josh Bates on countback courtesy of his win over Heathens' Morris, the only rider to defeat Worrall.

F.A.S.T Golden Hammer: Steve Worrall 14 (1st after run-off), Kyle Howarth 14, Josh Bates 12, Ashley Morris 12, Max Clegg 11, Adam Ellis 10, Dan Bewley 9, Adam Roynon 9, Tom Perry 7, Ben Morley 5, Matt Williamson 5, Nathan Graves 4, Lee Dicken 4, Luke Chessell 1, Richard Andrews 1, Lee Smart 1, Ben Basford 0 (res), Bradley Andrews 0 (res).

CRADLEY HOME RUN IS HALTED

CRADLEY suffered their first defeat at Monmore Green in five years as they went down 41-48 against local rivals Birmingham.

The Heathens suffered derby day heartache and saw their National League play-offs hopes dealt a bitter blow on a disappointing night.

Will Pottinger's side had not lost a home meeting at the track since losing to Buxton back in August 2011. But the all-around strength of the table-topping Brummies proved too much.

The visitors drew first blood as Jack Parkinson-Blackburn joined Jack Smith for a 5-1.

Parkinson-Blackburn picked off Bradley Andrews in heat four to keep them ahead – and the talented 15-year-old roared clear with Danyon Hume to move them six clear in heat eight.

A fine ride from Luke Chessell to keep Hume at bay in heat five had briefly moved the hosts within two, but their lack of lower order strength cost them dearly.

Skipper Max Clegg won heat 10 but saw partner Bradley Andrews fall as he battled for third place. Morris then stormed clear in the next race but Ben Basford was unable to make any impression on Hume at the back.

When Chessell was pressured into a mistake by the impressive Parkinson-Blackburn in heat 12 and Bradley Andrews fell in the penultimate race, it gave the visitors an unchallenged 5-0 which all but secured victory.

Unbeaten top two Morris and Clegg blasted around Liam Carr in heat 13 to keep their slim hopes alive. But the best efforts of Richard Andrews were not enough to split Parkinson-Blackburn and Tom Bacon in the penultimate race, as his fall saw the Brummies wrap up the victory.

Morris and Clegg capped off perfect paid maximums to end on a high in the final race.

Cradley: Ashley Morris 14+1, Max Clegg 14+1, Luke Chessell 7, Richard Andrews 3+2, Ben Basford 2, Bradley Andrews 1, James Purchase R/R.

Birmingham: Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 11+5, Tom Bacon 10+1, Danyon Hume 8+1, Tom Perry 7, Darryl Ritchings 5+2, Liam Carr 4+1, Jack Smith 3.

Grant is on a Euro golf mission



Grant Dipple, left, congratulated by Bridgestone's Wim Belckx

AN AMATEUR golfer from Halesowen is one step closer to playing with a star of the European Tour – just two years after picking up his first set of clubs.

Grant Dipple, aged 37, only took up the sport in 2014 after watching his dad, son and daughter play the game in recent years.

Now a 21 handicapper, he has won the regional final of the Bridgestone DriveGuard Trophy at Heythrop Park in Oxfordshire.

Up against hundreds of fellow amateurs, Dipple came out on top with a stableford score of 40 and will play in the outright final of the competition, at the same venue, on Wednesday, August 24.

If he is one of three overall winners at the final, he will go on to play at the Pro-Am of the British Masters at The Grove in October with a star of the European Tour.

Dipple, who had his dad by his side as caddy during his round, said: "Dad has been playing for 20 years or more, while my son and daughter have also been playing for around six years.

"They all said I should start playing and I told them there was no chance. But I have got the bug now and I am loving it.

"I had a great day out there. Dad caddied for me which made it all the sweeter.

"This is the first big competition I have ever played, so it was an amazing experience."

Yeltz make a point by fighting back

Halesowen Town 1 Corby Town 1 YELTZ recovered from an early setback to claim their first point of the season.

Andre Johnson fired wide for the visitors in early play but Corby took a 19th-minute lead when centre-forward Callum Ball placed his header into the corner of the net from Johnson's cross.

Kidderminster loan signing Richard Sho-Silva nodded Halesowen's first chance wide after 25 minutes but the hosts hardly threatened until equalising in the final minute of the first half. That's when Ethan Delaney stabbed home after the Steelmen failed to clear.

The Yeltz showed more urgency in the second half with Asa Charlton heading wide and Delaney latching on to a 70th-minute through ball before steering his shot wide. Tyroce Clarke also screwed wide three minutes later.

In the final minutes Malcolm Melvin curled just over the Corby bar after Kaiman Anderson held up the ball in the penalty area.

The Steelmen were reduced to 10 men in injury time after Connor Kennedy was shown a straight red card for his challenge on Anderson. Delaney's header was saved by goalkeeper Aidan Grant from the resulting free-kick.

Buxton 2 Halesowen Town 0

Halesowen could have taken the lead in just the second minute but Clarke put his shot wide.

Then Buxton got on top of the Evo-Stik Northern Premier game, Nicky Walker hitting the post but then opening the scoring on the half-hour when his effort was deflected past goalkeeper Daniel Platt.

After the break Halesowen did go close when Callum Williams's curling 20-yard free-kick well saved by Buxton keeper Jan Budtz. But Brad Abbot made it safe for Buxton when he scored from 20 yards.

Six teams line up for T20 finals week

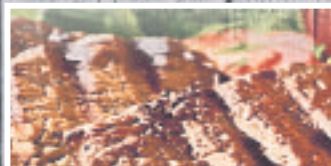
THE Black Country Floodlit T20 week takes place next week. Group games start at 5.30pm on Monday, running through to the finals day on Friday (August 26).

All the razzmatazz of T20 cricket will be on show with Himley, Brewod, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge and two new additions Halesowen and a Staffs Clubs select XI battling it out for the coveted JW Brandrick trophy and the £1,000 winners prize. Hope to see you there.

On Sunday, the semi finals and final of the Staffordshire Under 19 T20 Blast competition take place. Full details at <http://www.himleycc.co.uk/>

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